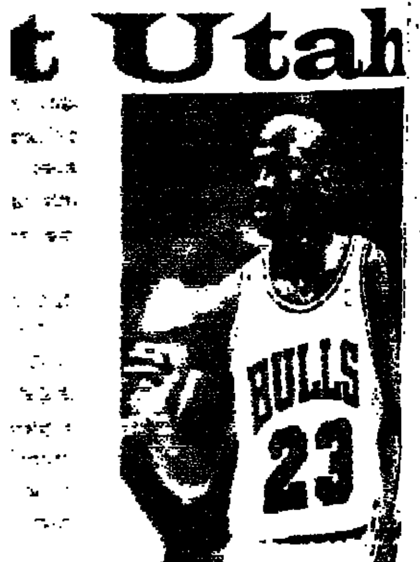


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EU Expansion Could Hurt Russia

Compiled From Dispatches

TEHRAN — Expansion of the European Union into Eastern Europe could hurt Russia's economy unless the EU negotiates with Moscow to lessen the impact, the Foreign Ministry's official overseeing EU affairs said on Wednesday.

"However you look at it, the European Union is a market with certain privileges internally and certain barriers from the outside," said Alexander Fomin, head of the ministry's European Union Department.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

FM Official Denies VOA Radio Report

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A Foreign Ministry spokesman here on Wednesday categorically denied a report broadcasted on Tuesday night by the American Radio Voice of America (VOA), which had distorted a speech delivered by the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Educational and Research Affairs, Abbas Maleki, in Amman, Jordan.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Demirel Accepts Erbakan's Resignation to Meet Opposition

ANKARA — President Suleyman Demirel on Wednesday accepted Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's resignation, the presidential office said in a statement.

Erbakan, who announced his resignation to reporters after meeting Demirel, said the president would meet opposition leaders on Thursday before appointing a new prime minister.

Erbakan said he presented Demirel with a joint declaration by the ruling parties and a right-wing ally in support of the premiership of his key conservative ally Tansu Ciller.

"We have reached an agreement to form a government that would have a parliamentary majority..., and the Prime Ministry's handover (to Ciller) was already part of our protocol last year," Erbakan told a joint news conference with Ciller and the leader of an allied extreme right-wing party.

"The president will act in line with the constitution," Ciller said, expressing her hope that Demirel would invite her to form the new government.

She said True Path, Welfare and the extreme rightist Grand Union Party together had a clear majority in Parliament.

Erbakan and Ciller both said the new government would take Turkey to an early general election, but did not specify a date. Sources said Erbakan favors an early general election in October while Ciller prefers a later date.

Wednesday's planned handover has been widely seen as an attempt to stave off a coup by the military, which sees itself as the guardian of modern Turkey's secular heritage, and the government over creeping Islamization.

The escalating tension between Erbakan's Islamists and the army has increased public fears of a military coup, although top mili-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Syrian President's Message Handed to Rafsanjani

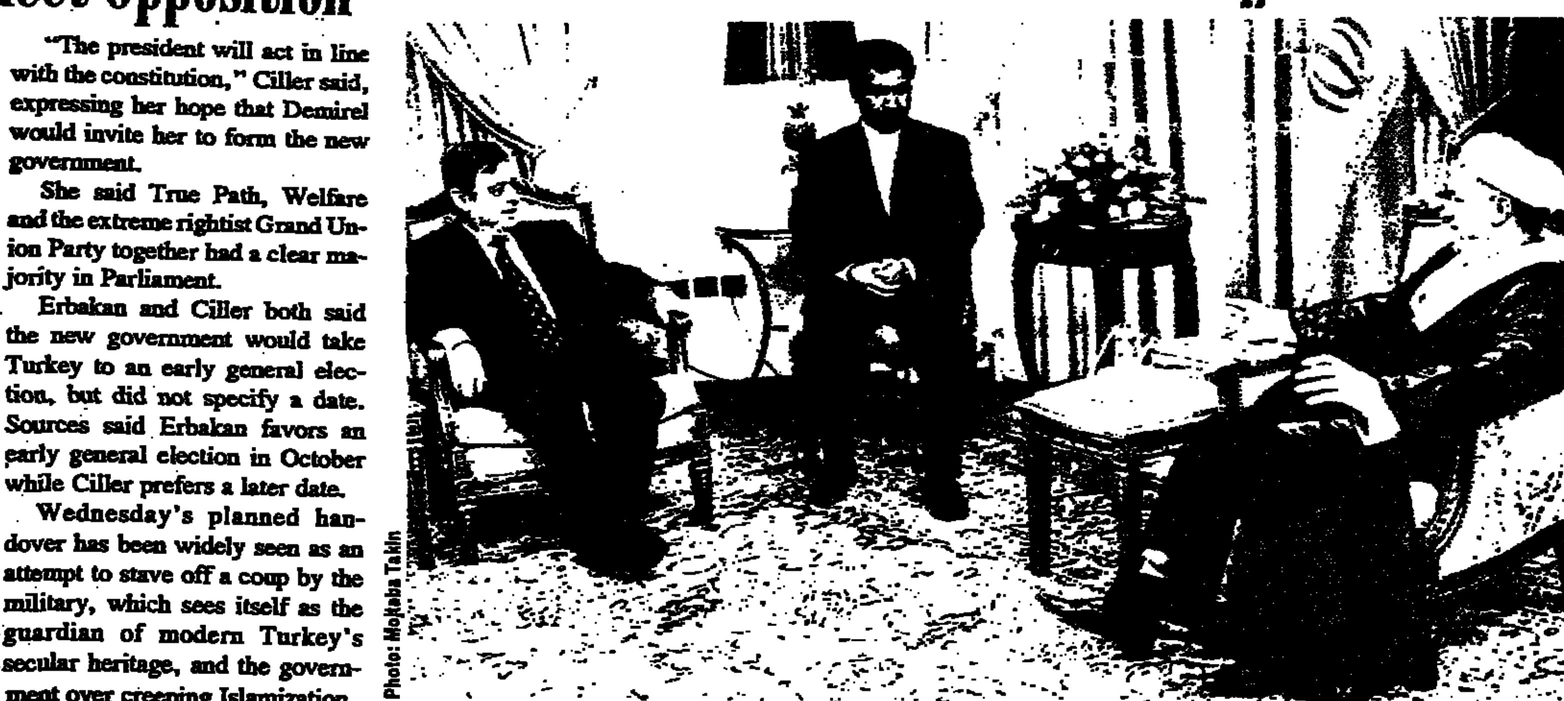


Photo: Mojtaba Takin

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Wednesday received visiting Syrian Vice-President, Abdel Halim Khaddam, who conveyed a message from Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, and discussed latests key international and regional issues.

The talks mainly focused on the recent provocation of the Zionist regime in the region and the Turkish troops incursion into northern Iraq.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

EU Urges Israel Not to Exclude Palestinian State

AMSTERDAM — The European Union urged Israel for the first time on Wednesday to consider allowing the creation of a Palestinian state.

In a statement adopted at their Amsterdam summit, EU leaders said: "Europe calls on the people of Israel to recognize the right of the Palestinians to exercise self-determination, without excluding the option of a state.

"The creation of a viable and peaceful sovereign Palestinian entity is the best guarantee of Israel's security," the 15-nation bloc said.

At the same time, the EU called on the Palestinian people to reaffirm their commitment to the legitimate right of Israel to live within safe, recognized borders.

The "European call for peace in the Middle East" warned that stagnation on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks "is a permanent threat to the

(Contd on Pg. 14)

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In the Name of God

And most of them do not follow (anything) but conjecture; surely conjecture will not avail aught against the truth; surely Allah is cognizant of what they do.

(HOLY QORAN) (10:36)

OPINION

Collective Security with Cooperation of Regional Countries

The U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen rounded up his five-day trip to the five countries bordering the Persian Gulf. As his predecessors, in the course of his visits the new secretary of defense justified for his hosts the necessity for continued U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf. He made a case for them to allocate new budgets for weapons purchases from the United States. As his predecessors, Secretary Cohen put forth the probable dangers to the Gulf leaders' lives and thrones, while instilling fear of Iran in their hearts.

These scenes have been repeated so often that they have lost their novelty for everyone (except perhaps for the new secretary). But what was new on this trip, and what might portend change, was Riyadh's cold reception of the secretary.

According to certain news reports, contrary to Mr. Cohen's expectations, his first host did not show any inclination towards the matters at hand; with regard to the continuation of certain military and security cooperations, he gave the secretary a cold shoulder.

By various means, this cold reception manifested itself further in the remaining countries on the secretary's itinerary, rendering it impossible for him to view his trip a success. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Larijani Confers With Japanese FM Official

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Deputy Head of the Majlis Foreign Policy Commission Mohammad Javad Larijani here Wednesday held talks with visiting Head of the Middle East Office at Japanese Foreign Ministry Kunihiko Miyake.

According to IRNA, in the meeting, Larijani said Japan should not remain as a mere trading partner of Iran but rather long-term investments in economic and industrial areas should be on a par with the political confidence between the two countries.

Referring to the hostile propaganda of the Western media against Iran, Larijani said the facts about Iranian progress and achievements of the Revolution would eventually be heard by world people and recommended that positive attitude should be the base of international relations. The Japanese official noted that Tehran-Tokyo relations have been stable thanks to the mutual confidence existing between the two countries.



LARIJANI

Miyake said Japan is against the U.S. dual containment policy and the d'Amato bill against Iran.

Japan believes that the Islamic Republic of Iran is entitled to undertake its active role in the region and the world, he said.

President-Elect Visits Qom

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President-elect Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Khatami arrived in Qom on Wednesday and was welcomed by the ulema and people of the holy city.

Upon arrival Hojjatoleslam Khatami headed for the holy shrine of Hazrat Masoumeh (SA). The shrine was crowded with pilgrims at the time. The president-elect is accompanied by the Leader's representative and the superintendent of the holy shrine, Ayatollah Masoudi Khomeini.

Ayatollah Masoudi Khomeini while welcoming the president-elect, wished him success in carrying out the crucial responsibilities of the nation during his term in office.

Thanking the superintendent of the holy shrine, Khatami expressed hope that he would be able to fulfill the aspiration and goals of the late Imam under the guidance of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei with the help of people and ulema.

President's Message to His Venezuelan Counterpart

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A written message from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to his Venezuelan counterpart was handed to Venezuelan Minister in charge of the Presidential Office Asdrubal Aguiar on Tuesday.

The message was handed over by the Iranian Ambassador to Caracas Mohammad Keshavarzzadeh, IRNA reported.

In the message, Rafsanjani thanked the Venezuelan president, Rafael Caldra for the message of condolence and sympathy to the government and the people of Iran for the earthquake in Khorasan Province.

Following the tragic quake last month, the Venezuelan president had sent a message expressing his own and his people's condolences to the survivors of the quake in Qaen and Birjand and announced readiness of the Caracas government to dispatch relief aid to the quake victims.

The Venezuelan foreign minister in a separate message to his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayeti, also expressed sympathy on behalf of the government and people of Venezuela for the quake-stricken people.

Hakim: 5,000 Iranian POWs Still in Iraq



HAKIM

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Evidences indicate that 5,000 Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) are currently being detained in Iraq and there is no information whatsoever concerning their fate, Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Hakim, announced in Ilam on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, he added that due to lack of cooperation by Baghdad regime, the file on Iranian POWs as well as those missing in action (MIAs) has still remained unsettled.

Hakim announced that the government of Kuwait also has deeds and documents which reveal the detention of over 650 Kuwaiti POWs in Iraq and a figure higher than this of POWs from other countries held in Iraq.

Hakim, in Ilam to attend a two-day conference on the condition of Iraqi Kurds residing in Iran, said that the oppressed Muslim nation of Iraq should rise up against the oppressor to win back their rights.

(Contd. on Pg. 15)

Iran, South Korea Cooperate in Shipbuilding

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iranian shipbuilding company of Khalij-e Fars and the South Korean company of Hyundai here on Tuesday signed an agreement valued $173 million on transfer of technology and knowhow in shipbuilding.

Director of the Iranian Company Ali Hamidi said in the signing ceremony that a credit line worth $120 million covering part of the contract has been issued by the Korean side on a 8.5-year finance basis, IRNA reported.

He explained that $60 million of the said credit would be spent on buying necessary equipment while another 20 percent of the credit would be allocated for purchase of raw materials in the country.

He remarked that fifty percent of shipbuiling would be done in Iran, adding that the contract would bring about some 30 percent reduction in hard currency costs.

He observed that the contract includes supply of necessary equipment and building material by the Koreans for builiding six 22,000-ton cargo ships for the Shipping Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Malaysia, Lebanon to Sign Trade Agreements

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Malaysia and Lebanon are expected to sign three agreements as the first step to foster closer ties between private sectors of both countries.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that the agreements, relating to avoidance of double taxation, promotion and protection of investments and bilateral payment arrangement, were essential to promote confidence among investors of both countries, an IRNA-Bernama dispatch reported.

TEHRAN — "Mas-e Navard" machinery, which are used for oil drilling operations in arid deserts and swampy and sandy regions, have been constructed by the Army's ground forces and have saved the army eight million dollars in foreign exchange.

First National Seminar on U.F.W. to Open Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Executive of Urban Water Research and Development Project and the Chairman of the First National Seminar on U.F.W. Baqer Khodadad Husseini said outlined the objectives of the seminar to be held July 8-9.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, Husseini said some 28 percent of water in distribution network, called "Unaccounted-for Water" (U.F.W.), is lost per annum.

He said the reduction and control of U.F.W. project is to be implemented by the end of the second five year development plan, enabling the country to reduce the loss to 20 percent.

Husseini, also secretary of the first national seminar on U.F.W. said water resources are limited in Iran and that lasting environment calls for optimum use of natural resources in a precise and meticulous manner.

He said that even if we find new water resources, building new reservoirs and boosting production in order to meet the consumers' water requirements in urban areas would cost much higher and would be more difficult than preventing the water from beings wasted.

He said there are two major factors responsible for the waste of water in urban network: physical and non-physical, adding that 48 percent of the U.F.W. is physical and the other 52 percent non-physical and includes unauthorized consumption, etc.

Husseini said the set objective for the end of Second Development Plan is to bring the U.F.W. loss to 20 percent, adding that if we achieve this objective, 400 billion rials of national capital will be saved per annum.

He further said the water costs the water organization 670 rials per cubic meter but that as it is subsidized, it only costs the consumer 150 rials per cubic meter.

Husseini said that in order to discourage consumer from waste of water, the price rises in proportion to excessive consumption.

Output of Khangiran Refinery to Increase by 40%

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The gas production capacity of Shahid Hashemi-Nejad (Khangiran) refinery in Mashhad, in Khorasan Province, is to increase from 25 million cubic meters to 35 to 40 million annually once the expansion project of the refinery is completed by the National Iranian Gas Company.

The project director Abdul Hussein Samari said Tuesday that with the compeltion of the project output of the refinery will increase by 40 percent, IRNA reported.

The refined gas will be transferred to Khorasan, Mazandaran and Semnan provinces, he told reporters.

The complex is to be completed in three years at a predicted cost of $100 million. All the designing, engineering and installation works of the project have been carried out by Iranian engineers and experts.

The distillation unit of the refinery which will become operational next year, will produce naphta, gas, oil and kerosene, he said.

Samari added that during the last Iranian year, 1375, a total of 164 million cubic meters of gas were extracted, 30 to 35 percent of which was used by industrial sector.

UNHCR Expert Praises Iranian Women's Active Presence in Society

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A senior expert of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Yasamina Shourfi in Semnan Wednesday appreciated the active presence of Iranian women in social affairs, an IRNA report said.

Shourfi, who is in charge of affairs of women refugees in the Middle East said that during his stay in Iran she has found out that Iranian women play active and constructive role both in social and family affairs.

The UNHCR expert, who is in Semnan to inspect a refugee camp in the city, described as "very good" the services being rendered to women refugees by Iran.

More than 1,200 Afghan women who have taken refuge in Iran are residing in the camp along with their families.

Seminar of Industrialists to Be Held This Month

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A nationwide seminar of industrialists will be held at Azadi stadium this month to review the latest achievements of industrial sector during the eight years of construction.

The seminar is organized following a request by members of over 90 industrial groups, said Deputy Industries Minister for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Iraj Akbariye here Wednesday.

He told IRNA that at present more than 150 industrial groups are active in the fields of textile and garment, foodstuff, pharmaceutics and hygiene, non-ferrous minerals, electricity and electronics, moulding, car-manufacturing, machine-building and equipment, chemical and celluloid industries.

Mahlouji Outlines His Ministry's Performance

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Minister of Mines and Metals Hussein Mahlouji, addressing a televised interview, outlined the eight-year long performance of his ministry.

Mahlouji said that at the beginning despite the fact that some 40,000 forces were engaged in a plant such as the Mubarakeh Steel Complex, and in spite of all the investment, the country was an importer of steel.

"Today, however, we produce 6 million tons of steel, curtailing our dependency on foreign countries in this respect by 95 percent," the minister said.

He added that now Iran can claim to be "an exporter in the steel production industry."

Mahlouji said such a development is unprecedented among developing countries, adding that Iran was an importer of ferrous alloy, but that today it is an exporter.

The minister of mines and metals further said that today experts consider aluminium to be the metal of the century and in Western countries the industry has an annual 2.5 percent growth.

He said that Iran's enormous progress in aluminium may be attributed to the construction of the Al-Mahdi Aluminium Industry Complex and added that foreigners did not imagine that Iran could commission such a big undertaking.

"We are today producers of aluminium as well as exporters of the metal", the minister said, adding that "our cooperation with Russia and Guinea is proof of this accomplishment."

Mahlouji said "We are capable of meeting all our needs for copper and zinc", adding that "At present we are producing zinc in Qaisariyeh (Turkey.)"

Elaborating on the ministry's progress in the area of mines, Mahlouji said "Our 800 semi-active mines in 1989 have increased to 1800 active mines in the current Iranian year."

The minister expressed willingness to cooperate with Central Asian countries in the area of investment and joint venture in mines and metals projects.

Mass Rally Planned Against U.S. Law

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) released a statement yesterday condemning a recent bill passed by the U.S. Congress recognizing Qods as the official capital of Israel and calling for massive presence in a countrywide protest rally to be held prior to this week's Friday prayers.

Part of the statement reads that the Muslim people of Iran by participating in this rally reiterate their allegiance to the ideals of the oppressed people of Palestine.

Meanwhile, the Culture and Islamic Relations Organization released a similar statement in condemnation of the U.S. law that will certainly foment tension by expanding Zionist domination and plunder the resources of the Muslim people of the region.

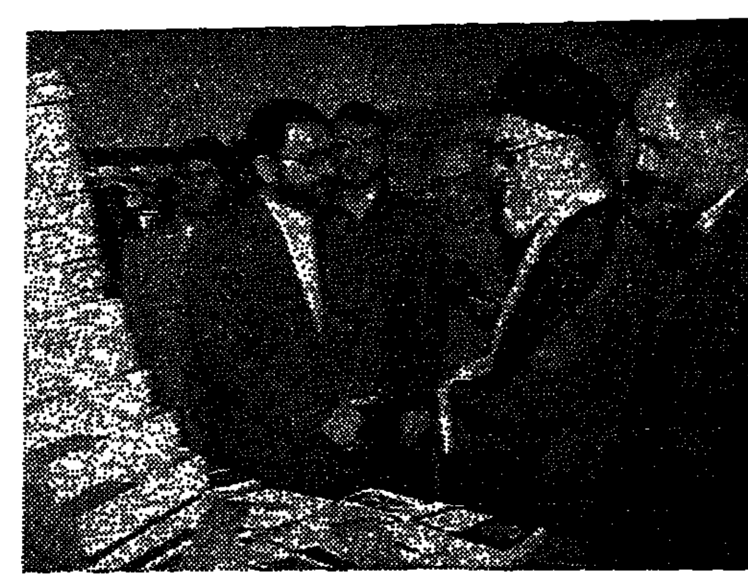
A similar statement released by the Coordination Council of the Islamic Propagation Organization condemned the "unprincipled policies of the U.S. Congress" for recognizing Qods as the capital of the usurper regime.

The statement partially reads that the Great Satan is responsible for the growing crisis in the Middle East and its consequences.

Hayyan Cultural and Publishing Institute (HCPI): 1996 Top Private Publisher

مؤسسه فرهنگی انتشاراتی
حیان

During Supreme Leader's visit to the 10th Tehran International Book Fair, Dr. Mahdi Khazali, the managing director of HCPI, introduces Hayyan and the future plans and projects, promising more serious cultural and publishing efforts as well as huge investment on research.



Hayyan institute with cultural, research and publication aims has succeeded in less than two years to employ expert manpower and publish valuable medical works for the university and research society of the country. The new structure of Hayyan is shaped in a way that the institute is able to meet the cultural, research and publication needs of the scientific society of Iran. The cultural section is responsible for holding ceremonies, participating in assemblies and exhibitions, cultural productions, audio-visual activities, and propagation. The newly established research section cooperates with other research organizations and institutes of the country to launch researches in applied and basic fields. The publication section is mainly active in publishing medical works. Along with promoting the quality of works, the institute has put on its agenda publication of books on other fields. Hayyan is a friendly center for authors, translators, editors, researchers, men-of-letters, and masters of literature and culture. Hayyan owes its success to the close and tender cooperation of a group of the best university professors, physicians, technicians, able writers and translators, expert editors and experienced printing staff and bookbinders. This close cooperation gave fruit from the beginning in the year 1993, during which the institute published a book each month. Later in the years 1994 and 1995 it published a book each week. In 1996, the unimaginable success, a book each two days, completed the achievements of institute. This could not be possible but by ever-increasing and hard-working efforts of the managers for different sections. This eye-catching success, along with unique quality of its publication have been warmly welcomed by researchers and knowledgeable personalities. This guarantees future successes of the institute in a way that, God willing, Hayyan awaits brighter future ahead. It is hoped that the institute publish a book every 24 hours in the current year for the cultural and scientific society of the country.

Pioneer of Machine Translation and Computerized Term Banks in Middle East

Machine Translation (MT), or Computerized Translation as I prefer to address it to refute any probable mechanistic misinterpretation of this systemic process, has a long and well-appreciated international tradition as a laboratory for all natural language processing (NLP) theories.

In recent years, the development process of computers and computation was so revolutionary that it seems obligatory to move towards a more dynamic and modern definition of previous concepts. Computational linguistics, as an interdisciplinary field, helps to this modern conceptualization. It is now widely recognized that computerized translation, like human translation, is not only possible but it happens as well. Now, the term *'translator'*, as a lexicologic entry in dictionaries, is defined as *'a person or machine that translates'*.

Translation, when done by computers, can act as a superhighway in this information age to transfer a gigantic quantity of knowledge from a nation with source language into the other with target language.

Automatic translation system or translation software is of significance in many different respects:

□ translation machine is easily reproducible and you can increase the rate of information processing according to the work load.

□ translation machine always uses its utmost features and always does its best to perfrom translation, never entrapped by fatigne, and so guarantees the optimum uniformity of target language text especially in processing long inputs.

□ security of information is maximum because the involvement of human agent in the process can easily be reduced to the minimum.

All these features are encouraging nations towards more and more investment on machine translation projects and developement of various software systems to immitate a human faculty, i.e. translating potential, through the advancements in artificial intellignece.

Translation software, as is capable of expressing a *'mindomimetic' behavior*, is in nature an expert system, having outstanding features when compared to human expert:

- *permanent accessibility:* the expert system is always accessible and can always be active (24 hours a day and 365 days a year);
- *immortality:* the expert system never dies, so its knowledge is immortal;
- *transferability and reproducibility:* the knowledge of the expert system is easily transferable from one machine to the other, as well as being readily reproducible;
- *unfatigability:* the performance of the expert system is always maximal.

The idea of machine translation goes back to 1946. In half a century, a fully realistic systemic consideration has emerged from the initial mechanistic view.

■ ■ ■

Hayyan cultural and publishing Institute (HCPI) began its MT challenge in January 1997 by establishing its especial research center as Bureau for Investigations on Lexicology and Machine Translation (BILMT).

My involvement with the idea goes back to 1990, the same year another member of the present team stared his endeavor independently.

Hayyan's TurboTrans:
A Project for Computerized Translation of Medical and Scientific Texts From English Into Persian

Our approach to MT was initially and essentially a mixed lexicologic-translatologic methodology, recognizing computer science as a means of intermingling lexicologic information with translation theory.

Our project, TurboTrans ® is aimed at translating scientific and technical texts from English into Persian. The first phase of the project delivers translation of medical texts in that direction. As defined in TurboTrans project, the three basic elements of this expert system are:

□ LEXICOLOGIC ELEMENT: more than 10 million records of lexicologic infromation is being entered into computers and is simultaneously refined.

The aim is to develop a rich term bank including English entries and their lexical equivalents in Persian. This term bank can serve as an efficient tool for human translators, both from English into persian and vise versa. The service will be available through telephone, fax, and WWW.

During the seven years since my 1990 decision to get involved in MT, I have compiled a bilingual medical dictionary with more than 100,000 entries which has been revised in BILMT since 1996 and is to be published by HCPI as Hayyan's Comprehensive Illustrated English-Persion Dictionary of Medical Sciences.

All these attempts, I hope, will satisfy the lexical requirements of the system.

The independence of lexicologic knowledge is of great significance in the design and implementation of TurboTrans. This independence allows us to consider semantic aspects and real world knowledge, while allowing the final users of the system to cooperate with the system in both human-aided machine translation (HAMT) and machine-aided human translation (MAHT).

On the other hand, feasibility of cyclic revisions of the lexical knowledge-base is a by-product of this independence.

□ TRANSLATOLOGIC / LINGUISTIC ELEMENT: search for universals is the focus of all attempts in this axis. On the basis of our present-day linguistic and translatologic knowledge, a kernel has been designed and is being implemented that is the inference engine of the system and is capable of performing realistic and acceptable translation.

The main topics in the inference engine are universe-of-discourse analyzer, syntactic parser, semantic parser, real-world-knowledge interpreter, ambiguity resolver, and morphologic-modifications handler. Individual well-defined modules in the kernel perform these tasks efficiently.

□ COMPUTATIONAL ELEMENT: object-oriented programming and artificial-intelligence technology using C/C++ was and still is our main methodology in software engineering of this expert system.

In comparison with similar projects especially in Europe, America, and Japan, our TurboTrans is very young; from a realistic point-of-view, we recognize that it is in its fetal stage of its development. However, the zygote that has evolved into such a fetus was, I think, very viable and we can expect its successful development into an undisputedly powerful and efficient system.

We, in BILMT of Hayyan, appreciate new ideas in this regard.

Mojtaba Ebrahimzadeh
Project Manager



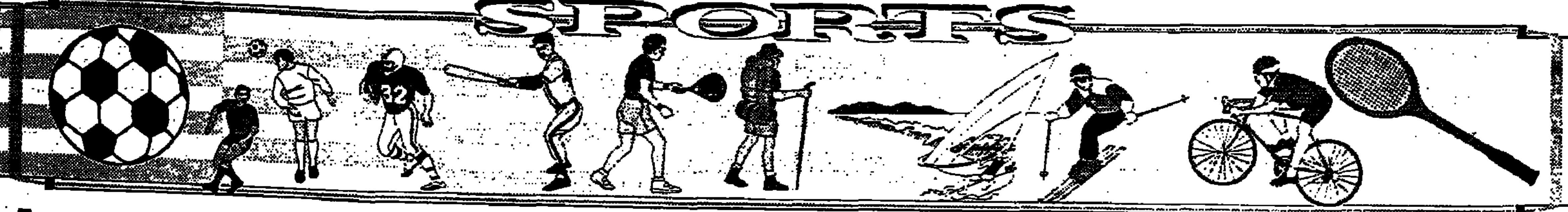
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Argentina Advances t

SOCCER

BASEBALL

Gonzalez Lifts T



Argentina Ties Paraguay, Advances to Quarterfinals



COCHABAMBA, Bolivia (June 17): Argentina's Julio Cruz (C) Heads the ball between Paraguayan players Celso Ayala (L) and Carlos Gamarra during their Group A Copa America match-Argentina and Paraguay tied 1-1.

(AFP PHOTO)

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia — Argentina tied Paraguay 1-1 on a penalty shot in the closing seconds Tuesday night to advance to the quarterfinals of the Copa America soccer tournament.

Paraguay still has a chance of advancing to the quarterfinal round as one of the best third-place finishers.

Jose Loui Chilavert scored on a penalty shot in the 74th minute to give Paraguay the lead.

But Marcelo Gallardo, who had previously failed on a penalty shot, scored the tying goal in the 90th minute on another penalty.

Since a tie benefited both Argentina and Paraguay, the two teams played cautiously without risking much.

Ecuador, which earlier beat Chile 2-1, finished first in Group A with seven points, followed by Argentina with five, Paraguay with four and Chile with zero.

(AP)

SOCCER

Surprise Team Ecuador Win Again in Copa America

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia — Ecuador, one of the Copa America's biggest surprises, won again on Tuesday, beating Chile 2-1 in group a to clinch a quarter-final berth.

The result eliminated the uninspired Chileans, who lost all three of their matches and scored only one goal.

Chile were missing striker Ivan Zamorano and Ecuador were without playmaker Ale Aguinaga as both teams rested their star players for world cup qualifying matches.

Argentine-born striker Ariel Graziani put Ecuador in front after 32 minutes, during which Chile had more possession but never looked like scoring.

Six minutes into the second half, Feirnando Vergara ended 231 frustrating minutes for Chile when he scored their first goal of the tournament. But in the 55th minute, Jose Gavica struck the winner for Ecuador.

Ecuador, traditional one of the minnows of south American soccer, were surprise 2-0 winners over Paraguay Saturday and played to a scoreless draw with Argentina Wednesday. Chile's goal was the first they have conceded in the competition.

They have suffered less than the other teams from playing in Bolivia third city at 2,600 meters above sea level.

(Reuter)

BASEBALL

Gonzalez Lifts Texas Past Rockies

DENVER — Juan Gonzalez belted a two-run homer with one out in the top of the 11th inning Tuesday to lift the Texas Rangers to a 10-8 victory over the Colorado Rockies in the first interleague game at Coors field.

The homer was the 422nd extra-base hit of Gonzalez's career, tying him with Ruben Sierra for the top spot in Rangers' history.

Colorado closer Steve Reed (1-3) started the 11th and retired Ivan Rodriguez on a groundout, but Rusty Greer singled and Gonzalez lifted a 2-2 pitch over the right-field wall for the game-winning hit. In all, he drove in five runs.



Danny Paterson (5-3) tossed two scoreless innings and escaped a 10th-inning jam to notch the victory for Texas.

The Rockies, who used seven relievers and twice rallied from five-run deficits, dropped to 1-4 in games against American League teams.

Colorado trailed 8-3 after seven innings, but Vinny Castilla hit a two-run homer in the eighth and the Rockies picked up three more runs in the ninth off Texas closer John Wetteland. Ellis Burks, who finished with five hits, smacked a two-run homer and Castilla singled home Dante Bichette to send the game into extra innings.

(Reuter)

Holyfield Prepares for the $30m Match VS Tyson

NEW YORK — Mike Tyson has trumpeted a prediction of a "sensational victory" over Evander Holyfield in their rematch next week — sounds that are sweet music to Holyfield.

"I expect for him to be a little more aggressive, which plays into my hand, which could make the fight end quicker than it did," said the 34-year-old Holyfield, who stunned the pundits by stopping Tyson in the 11th round last November.



Holyfield dominated Tyson that night, backing up the ferocious champion and outpunching him to take away the World Boxing Association title despite being rated a 17-1 longshot in the days leading up to the bout.

"I think coming into the first fight, I truly believed. but other people didn't believe I believed," he said in a teleconference call Tuesday from Houston, where he is training for the June 28 Las Vegas bout.

"This time they pretty much believe that I can win. I can still win, and I will win," Holyfield said.

Tyson said in hindsight that he had taken Holyfield, a two-time champion going into the bout, too lightly and that he had not trained hard enough.

"Anyone can have a bad day," Holyfield said about Tyson's painful night in the ring. "But I feel that I made the day bad for him. It's about skills and about knowledge of the game.

"In that field, I know I have the knowledge of the game to do it again," added Holyfield, who takes a 33-3 record into the rematch.

Still Holyfield, who knows only one way to prepare for a big fight, was not about to rest on his laurels.

"Stamina is the big thing in all my fights," he said. "I have to train hard. You can't live on your past performance."

Holyfield said he expects Tyson, who has changed trainers, may make some tactical changes, but that it would make no difference.

"The intensity will be a lot higher. I think if there will be changes in Tyson it will be apparent early, but I have to continue to apply pressure on Tyson," said Holyfield, who surprised the power-punching Tyson with his readiness to go toe-to-toe, eventually handing him only the second defeat in 47 professional fights.

"That would force him to go back on what he does best. And then I can take the fight away from him."

Holyfield predicted Tyson would revert to what he knows best.

"I don't look at Tyson as a bully. I look at Tyson as a fighter who has a style that works for him, but that is one-dimensional," posited the pugilistic professor.

"He beat a lot of people, but I have a solution to that style. He has a style that worked. It prevailed and allowed him to be the champion of the world — twice.

"After me, he probably could become champion again," Holyfield said.

He added that he felt Tyson deserved the rematch because "both of us are the best fighters in the world at this time."

The $30 million purse each will receive was another good reason for arranging a reprise.

(Reuter)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described By a Master

Skills of Kung Fu

By Master Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

(Part 44)

Controlling Breath and Mind

In previous parts it was expalined that the power of 'tendon' is in fact the muscular pressure of adbomen. In the art of Kung Fu students are instructed to perform breath exercises (eiboki) along Kung Fu exercises. The breath exercise increases the activity of abdomen area for deep breathing and eliminates the person's exhaustion. Further more, it maximizes the general power of the body. In breath exercise (eiboki), you breathe deeply while you are standing up. At the end of inhalation, you must stretch your hands upward making a circle shape at both sides of your body (in such a way that your hands cross each other in front of your forehead). Then contract tendon, armpit, forefingers and middle fingers, and while you turn the legs inside, hold your breath and contract buttocks muscles. After that direct your power in concentrated form toward inside the body till the body starts to tremble. Next, throw the hands to both sides of the body in such a way that your hands cut through the air in front of the chest. Bend the elbows and exhale in normal way but with loud voice. At the end of exhaling stage, bring down your hands and inhale. If you repeat this exercise five times, even after a heavy exercise, your breathing will return to its normal pace. Performing this breath exercise gives the person the power needed for breaking bricks and hard objects. Giving out the last parts of inhaled air is useful for concentration power.

One of the other breathing methods is called "nugareh" breathing. This breathing method is used in real combats.



QOM (June 18) — The visiting President-elect Hojjatoleslam Seyed Mohammad Khatami confers with Grand Ayatollah Mohammd Fazel Lankarani at the residence of the ayatollah. In the meeting, domestic issues as well as recent developments of the world of Islam were discussed and Grand Ayatollah Lankarani offered important guidelines.

Iraq Seeks UN Green Light to Import Goods From Syria

BAGHDAD — Iraq has requested UN authorization to import goods through its border with former foe Syria, which would open a fourth outlet for sanctions-hit Baghdad, official newspapers said Wednesday.

Nizar Hamdoon, ambassador to the United Nations, officially asked the UN sanctions committee for Iraq to use the Abu Shamat crossing, in the region of Al-Tanaf, under the oil-for-food accord.

Last month a Syrian delegation traveled to Baghdad to break the ice and begin talks on resuming trade. (AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 2)

OPINION

One can look for the reason for this cold reception in the common stance taken by the United States and Israel in such matters as the support of the transfer of the capital of the Zionist regime from Tel Aviv to Beit-ul-Moqaddas; the U.S. veto of the necessity for the payment of damages to the victims of Qana, Lebanon; a refusal to bind Tel Aviv to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT); and the cancellation by Netanyahu of agreements signed between Israel and Arab countries before he came to power.

However, it could be that Saudi Arabia's bitter experiences with regard to the American military presence on its own soil has had a major effect in this connection. Be it the increase of tension, the growing dissatisfaction of the people, moral corruption, or the imposition of back-breaking expenses - which, for the first time in history, have created a deficit in Saudi Arabia's budget - it cannot be ignored that all of these are the fruits of the American presence in northern Saudi Arabia. And this is not the first time that Saudi officials have expressed their dissatisfaction to Washington.

Aside from the above-mentioned factors, it is possible that the neighbors have discovered that Iran is not the evil image which the U.S. has drawn for them. In the 18-year period since the Islamic Revolution, the U.S. has consistently attempted to portray the Islamic Republic as a danger to its southern neighbors, creating a market for the sale of weapons. In the ups and downs of events which have thus far taken place, however, it is now clear to the countries of the region that they would never be a target of Iranian aggression.

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has never fired the first bullet towards its neighbors, and if the provocations of American imperialism had not led the Baathist regime of Iraq to attack Iran, the Iranian military machine would never have been put into motion.

Nevertheless, after the end of the Iraqi-imposed war, Iran announced to all its neighbors that it would never take revenge on the friends of its enemy, and that the years after 1988 were to be years of renewal of old friendships.

One must praise the stance taken by Saudi Arabian officials, seeing it as a new, auspicious strategy, linking all the neighbors and arming them against the enemies; a strategy which one can call "the formation of the collective security of the region by means of the regional countries themselves."

Pakistan Explains Taleban Support

ALMATY — Pakistan Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan began a visit to the ex-Soviet states of Central Asia on Wednesday intent on explaining his country's support for Afghanistan's Taleban militia.

"The purpose of my visit here is to explain our position on the recognition of the Taleban government," Khan told reporters on his arrival in the Kazakh capital Almaty.

The Pakistani Embassy in Almaty said Khan would also visit Afghanistan's neighbor, Tajikistan.

Central Asian leaders, many of them former communist party bosses, are deeply suspicious of the Taleban's fundamentalist brand of Islam and fear Afghan chaos could spill across their borders threatening their own stability.

Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov has been especially vocal in his opposition to the Taleban.

Pakistan is quietly promoting the Taleban in Central Asia as the only means of bringing peace to the country, which would in turn open up new routes to export oil, gas and other goods from Central Asia direct to booming South Asian markets. (Reuter)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

FM...

The radio report falsely claimed that the Iranian diplomat, addressing an audience in Jordan University, had said that Iran's future foreign policy would serve the national interests and would not be affected by the predominant ideology in Iran.

The spokesman reiterated that the broadcasting of this false report by the radio had been prompted by mischievous and self-serving objectives.

"Maleki, in his speech, explicitly stated that Iran's foreign policy is aimed at promoting the national interests and is founded on the basis of Islam," the Foreign Ministry spokesman added.

Air Pollution Conference in Tehran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A two day conference, entitled "Air Pollution, Tehran's Action Plans" opened here on Wednesday. During the gathering a set of recommendations to reduce transport emissions in Tehran will be presented.

The recommendations are indeed the results of a two-year study, jointly conducted by Air Quality Control Company (a subsidiary of the municipality of Tehran) and international consultants.

Tehran Emissions Reduction Project (TERP) was initiated by the Municipality of Tehran in 1997 and mutually funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank.

TERP recommendations focus on vehicle emissions standards, inspection and maintenance programs, fuel quality, fuel pricing policy, public transport system, parking policy, urban design and land use planning. In each category "cost-effectiveness" of the recommended action and the implementation period have been estimated. Indeed, a major achievement of the project was to clarify the magnitude of the problem.

Motor vehicles are the main source of air pollution in the Greater Tehran, releasing 75% of the particulate matters and 95.5% of total CO. In fact, particular matters are identified as the most critical pollutants in Tehran, causing about 4,000 deaths annually.

Although TERP recommendations may not be the final solution to the problem, the development of an action plan sets up an appropriate framework for cooperation and discussions to finding of the short and long-term strategies. The conference organizers believe that the active participation of the stakeholders in the planning process is necessary to guarantee future implementation of the plans.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

EU...

"If these barriers were to hinder our bilateral economic relations, of course it should be a subject of consultations and economic discussions — perhaps compensation," he told Reuters.

The treaty of Amsterdam approved by EU leaders at their mid-year summit earlier on Wednesday again raised the thorny issue of expanding into Eastern Europe. But they made little progress on reforming the union to prepare for enlargement.

"Strong barriers would lead to a direct economic loss," Fomin said. "If duties are three or four times higher for Russian goods than, say, the current standard, of course that would be bad."

"But they (potential new members) also have an interest in not losing bilateral economic ties. So this will be an area for some kind of compromise."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin will stay away from NATO's upcoming summit in Madrid, ITAR-TASS reported Tuesday, although the Kremlin played down the report.

ITAR-TASS quoted a source close to the presidency as saying that Yeltsin would not attend the July 8-9 summit, at which the Western military alliance will announce which former Soviet-bloc countries it is inviting to join.

However, chief Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said he could not confirm the report and that Yeltsin himself would announce whether he would attend the summit, Echo Moscow radio reported.

Yastrzhembsky said that ITAR-TASS had "got a bit ahead of itself."

Moscow has fiercely opposed any expansion of NATO, saying this threatens Russian security.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

DEMIREL...

tary commanders have so far ruled out the possibility.

For his part Grand Union chief Muhsin Yazicioglu told the news conference that: "After the prime minister tenders his resignation today, the new government should be formed without delay."

He said continued coalition partnership between Ciller and Erbakan was the only government alternative in Turkey's current conditions.

Ciller also gave signs of continued friction with the army, telling the news conference: "Our people don't like to be forced by other powers." (AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

SYRIAN...

Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam arrived here Wednesday morning, and was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by first Vice President Hassan Habibi.

In an interview with reporters at the airport, Khaddam said that Turkish alliance with Israel, incursion of Turkish forces into northern Iraq and the recent Israeli instigations in the region will top his talks with Iranian officials.

On presence of Turkish forces in Iraq, Khaddam said that of force under the pretext of creating a security zone is an Israeli phenomenon which is an outcome of the Ankara-Tel Aviv cooperation.

He termed occupation of northern Iraq by Turkish Army as an open aggression and violation of UN Charter.

Habibi, expressing Iran's interest in exchanging views with Syrian officials on regional issues, said the U.S. decision to recognize Beit-ul-Moqaddas as Israeli capital is wrong and improper.

Stressing Iran's opposition to the move, Habibi said Qods belongs to Muslims of the world and the usurper regime of Israel has no right to make any claim on Qods.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara and several ranking officials are accompanying Khaddam in his one-day visit to Iran.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

EU URGES...

security of all" and urged the peoples and governments of the Middle East to renew talks.

It recalled the internationally agreed foundations for peace including the exchange of land for peace, the non-acceptability of the annexation of territory by force, rejection of terrorism, Palestinian self-determination and the right of all states and peoples to live in safe, recognized borders.

The EU reaffirmed its opposition to settlements and support for Arab-Israeli security cooperation. It backed mediation efforts by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and pledged to support his initiative.

The new departure of the European statement appeared to reflect deep frustration at the approach of hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose decision to build a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas led to a breakdown of talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Paradoxically, it was issued in the midst of a marathon EU summit in which the bloc's leaders failed to agree on reforming their own institutions and postponed key decisions to the future.

"It is time to take concrete steps towards a lasting peace," the statement said.

Arab states have looked to the Europeans to balance out a perceived United States bias towards the Zionist state and to press Washington to take a more active role in breaking the deadlock in the peace process. (Reuter)

(Contd From Pg.7)

FDA...

cause ectopic pregnancy, other abnormal pregnancies and permanent damage to reproductive organs.

If used as designed, the pellets would be inserted into the uterus, where they would produce a chemical burn that left scarring which would permanently close the fallopian tubes, preventing future pregnancies, Rarick said.

The method has been used in Vietnam, she said, but she noted that usually two doses of the drug, administered a month apart, are required for sterilization. Rarick also said inadequate testing had been performed on the drug's safety for humans.

The drug also could be used for coercive sterilization of women without their knowledge, she said. (Reuter)

(Contd From Pg. 10)

BROWN .....

illegal trade in brown bear parts had not been demonstrated.

The main importers of bear parts are in Asia, where bear gall bladders are used in traditional medicine.

In most of the bear's habitats except in Japan and Western Europe, they are more numerous now than they were in the 1970s. In some countries they are thriving: Romania has seen a 14-fold increase to 7,000 between 1950 and 1996, and there has been a fivefold increase in Estonia over 35 years, to some 600 in 1996.

Russia now counts more than 100,000 brown bears, from 70,000 in 1982, mainly in Yakuty, Kamchatka and Kabborovsk. Some 3,500 are hunted each year.

Japan has not furnished figures since 1989 when it counted 3,000 brown bears. Turkey has between 2,000 and 5,000, Sweden has between 700 and 1,000, Bulgaria 700 to 800, Slovenia 600 to 800, Finland 700 and Slovakia 450.

Smaller numbers are cited in Poland, Italy, Spain, Norway, Austria and France. (AFP)



هكذا من الأصل

What Do Foreign Press Have to Say?

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Last week the foreign press gave wide coverage to Iran-U.S. relations focusing on one of the most important events in recent Iranian history: the election of Seyed Mohammad Khatami as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to succeed President Rafsanjani. The articles and analyses taken up by the press and written by Western authors attempt to reap political benefit from misconceptions fed to their readers capitalizing on the post-election conditions in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

More than anything else, their comments reveal the significance they attach to the Islamic Republic of Iran in regional and international politics and indicate a fear on their part that Iran would become more resolute in its policies against the U.S.

One of America's most reputable magazines writes that the U.S. policy towards Iran is wrong and should be changed.

Arnold Beechman of the Hoover Research Institute in Washington, in an article published in the *Washington Times* on Friday, June 13, says that the May 23 election in Iran is creating hopes in Washington and other capitals of Western countries. The hopes are anchored on the fact that the president-elect is a moderate who may reconsider some of the goals of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Making a comparison between the two above-mentioned press commentaries, it is understood that although the foreign press has confessed to the wrong policy of the U.S. with regard to Iran, it pins its hope on Iran to revise its policy towards the Islamic Republic of Iran, not on the U.S. to make up for its past mistakes.

It is to be noted that Western publications deliberately publish erroneous analyses in order to reach their goals. Interestingly, Western analysts cite proofs in support of their conclusions simply out of their own special understanding of events and not based on facts or verified statements.

Former deputy secretary of state David Nassbaum, in an article in the *Christian Science Monitor* wrote that Iran's President-elect Khatami, in his first press conference in May 27, did not make any reference to Iran's assets long frozen in U.S. banks in his reference to Iran-U.S. relations.

Nassbaum arrived at the conclusion, presumed from his own comments, that the president-elect's silence with regard to the subject of Iran's frozen asset could mean that Iran will not object to The Hague taking up the case. This being a possibility, Nassbaum points out that at least one of the problems in the way of future diplomatic efforts aimed at settling the sensitive political issues is removed.

The conclusion that may be drawn is that Nassbaum, based on his personal interpretation of Khatami's election, tries to sway his readers into thinking that Iran is not opposed to the removal of obstacles in the way of Iran-U.S. relations.

At any rate, last week the foreign press attempted to create a favorable political atmosphere on which to create hopes for achieving their goals and, in so doing, indirectly underscored the significance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena, using their fora to press for a re-establishment of mutual relations based on exploition of Iran's positive situation and political, economic and strategic significance.

The daily *Hurriyet* published in Turkey, in an economic commentary which appeared recently, writes that the U.S. aims to get a share of Iran's enormous gas resources in the Persian Gulf.

The daily, *Washington Post*, also quotes an interview conducted by French radio on a distinguished American professor who said that Iran's role in Central Asia is important. "After the war with Iraq, Iran, as the most important military force in the region, has convinced all political observers that Iran has a lasting key role in the Persian Gulf region and that having no relations with it is, quoting an observer, is like having no relations with China in the years 1949 and 1970," says the daily.

The interesting point is that some publications brag of the U.S. having no need to have relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran while at the same time considering such relations as of prime importance for the West. Other periodicals have disclosed sinister goals behind the reestablishment of this relation.

The *Daily Telegraph*, in its June 11 issue, writes that Washington's efforts in isolating Iran had the opposite effect of strengthening the regime.

The New York Times, in an article, predicts that in time the persistence of the West in standing up against Iran will corner other leaders who desire Iran's isolation from the West even more.

What was pointed out above indicates that the West plans to intervene in the internal affairs of Iran in order to enfeeble the Islamic Republic system even if it gains its goals.

Obviously, the negation of subjugation is an established principle in our foreign policy and has been underscored by Mr. Khatami, rendering the efforts of the Western press impotent.

What is interesting is that Western analysts are aware of this fact but attempt to change the rampant political atmosphere in line with their own interests. The following excerpt taken from an analytical article carried by "U.S.A. Today" substantiate the above argument:

"As regards institutionalized matters, Mr. Khatami relies on law. Even if he is a liberal, it should be remembered that he a religious man and committed to his traditions. It is, therefore, unlikely that he pursues a policy that might challenge him."

Foreign Radio Reports Analysis

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The foreign radios, continuing their disinformation against the May-23 presidential election in Iran, during the past week focused on the composition of the next cabinet under Hojjatoleslam Seyed Mohammad Khatami.

These radios baselessly claimed that there are disagreements between the president-elect and the Majlis (Iranian Parliament). Thus, they tried to convey the idea that Hojjatoleslam Khatami is going to face problems in the getting the vote of confidence for his cabinet from the Majlis.

The Zionist State Radio, on June 10, said:

The disagreements between different factions in the ruling Islamic establishment over composition of the Hojjatoleslam Khatami's cabinet are escalating...The supporters of Hojjatoleslam Khatami are saying that the defeated faction is not willing to admit its defeat and still intends to monopolize power.

But the fact is that the Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri was among the first officials to congratulate the president-elect on his victory and to announce his readiness to cooperate with his cabinet.

Therefore, the foreign radios seek in vain to portray the election result as defeat of a faction, which is now trying to make up for its defeat.

Also, some of these radios claimed that the extrafactious policy that Hojjatoleslam Khatami promised to adopt in forming his cabinet, cannot be realized.

The French Radio, on June 12, said:

The promise that the next cabinet will be extrafactious, given much emphasis during the election campaign, now seems difficult to fulfil...No political group is willing to accept this.

Radio BBC, on June 9, said:

The main problem facing the president-elect is that he does not wield complete freedom to designate the members of his cabinet. His cabinet should, in the first place, be approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament), where the conservatives hold the majority of the seats.

These statements are made at a time when the Iranian mass media have been quoting the Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Nateq Nouri as saying that the Majlis is determined to fully cooperate with Khatami. Even some of the Majlis deputies, in interviews, stressed that the president-elect is vested with complete authority to select his cabinet members.

The foreign radios during the past week also referred to the D-8 summit in Turkey. Since one of issues on the agenda of the gathering was to discuss changing the Israeli capital from Tel-Aviv to Bait-ul-Moqaddas, the foreign radios tried to downplay the importance of the summit.

Radio BBC, on June 15, said:

Even if the grou of the eight Islamic countries turns into a permanent organization, it cannot bring about considerable change in the international relations.

This statement sharply contrasts with the reality. The fact is that the D-8, enjoying the vast economic potential of its members and a population of 800 million, has bright prospects ahead.

But the foreign radios, due to some political reasons, ignore the fact and some of them are even trying to show that there is discord among the group members.

Radio Kuwait, on June 15, said:

Geographical dispersion, political disputes, and variety of political regimes and economic systems are among the main problems facing the D-8 members. In particular, the Turkey itself is at odds with some of these countries including Iran. It is not known why the Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan invited these countries, particularly Iran, to join the D-8.

It seems that the Western propaganda agents are frightened of such regional .organizations, which can pave the way for the elimination of misunderstanding created by the West among the regional countries. This also accounts for their biased attitude toward the D-8.

Iran's Foreign Policy: Principles and Objectives

MOHAMMAD JAVAD LARIJANI

PART II

BASIC PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

Islamic Iran's objectives in the international community can be summarized in two main principles:

Principle One: Iran should become a successful model of social order based on Islamic rationality in the modern and post-modern era.

Principle Two: The Islamic renaissance should be propagated, consolidated and enriched to become a dominant rationality in the Islamic world in order to generate its own particular social structure.

Of course, the "burning" question here is: How can Iran achieve these objectives? Should Iran pursue what it wants through the promotion of national liberation movements in the manner done by the communists or should it engage in plotting coup d'etats as was practiced by the U.S. or other Western powers? The answer to both options is clearly and forthrigtly negative. These types of activity are neigther feasible nor in the interest of the movement. Unlike what many outsiders assume, Iran has a clear understanding of its role and position in the international system. Furthermore, our understanding of the Islamic renaissance values its generative potential *within* various countries. As such, we only pursue our objectives within the context of democratic "possibilities" and an international frame of behavior.

This may explain why certain Western politicians are not happy about democratic systems in the Islamic world. Indeed, they seem to prefer the despotic opponents of Islamic renaissance over democratic leaders who happen to support the revival of Islamic thought! And there is nothing novel in this orientation. As early as the mid-nineteenth century, John Stuart Mill in his celebrated treatise on liberty openly advocated the dictatorship of an "Akbar or a Charlemagne" for less developed countries! We, at the end of the century, are fortunate enough to witness the nature and motives of liberal democracy in its full transparency, something which was available to our predecessors only through rigorous and painstaking analysis.

(To be contd)

Norwegian Couple to Wed on Wings of Love

OSLO — A Norwegian couple bent on propelling their love to new heights are to marry on the wings of a flying airplane.

Rolf Isaksen and Weivche Loevdal's wedding stunt is set for June 21 on a biplane flying over central Sweden, the Norwegian news agency NTB said.

Instructor Sanna Stenkvist, who will serve as witness, is teaching the pair how not to fall off the wings, while the priest has said she intends to stick to the cockpit for safety's sake.

The wedding is expected to last about 10 minutes.

(AFP)

Woman Claims $1.5 million Damage for Beard

NEW YORK — A 73-year-old New York woman is taking pharmaceutical giant Pharmacia and Upjohn to court after getting more than she bargained for when she bought a lotion to restore hair loss.

Gloria Mosesson's hair grew back...and then some. She has taken the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the newly-hirsute woman is claiming $1.5 million in compensation for an embarrassing beard.

In a deposition to the court, she reports "heavy, dark, substantial beard-like growth, starting at about eyebrow level and extending down to close to the chin area." *(AFP)*

Japanese Police Capture 1.3 Meter Alligator

TOKYO — Police in southern Japan Wednesday captured a 1.3 meter alligator in an irrigation pond, a police spokesman said.

"A zoologist told us that alligators can't survive the Japanese winter so we think it must have either escaped or been dumped here by someone," he said. "We're investigating the case as it's illegal to release dangerous animals."

"At the moment, the alligator is being taken care of in the pet shop. It will probably find a home in a zoo," the spokesman added. *(AFP)*

Three-Week-Old Baby Worth More Than $11m

LONDON — A British baby has become one of the world's youngest multi-millionaire — worth $11 million at just three weeks old, press reports said Wednesday.

Paul Sharpe, grandson of David Whelan, 60-year-old executive chairman of 683-million-dollar nationwide sports shop chain JJB Sports, was given 1.5 million shares worth $7.60 each in the family empire to avoid falling foul of possible new inheritance tax laws. *(AFP)*

Man Kills Wife Over 30 Cents and Some Cigarettes

CAIRO — A security guard shot dead his wife and his daughter after his spouse refused to give him one pound (30 cents) to buy some cigarettes, the *Al-Ahram* government newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Gamal Abdel Fattah, 42, killed his wife Saedeya and their 11-year-old daughter Shayma with a shotgun in the town of Benha north of Cairo "after his wife refused to give him a pound to buy some cigarettes," the newspaper said.

In the teeming Cairo neighborhood of Imbaba another man killed his wife when she refused to give him 13,000 pounds (around $4,000) to buy a plot of land to build a house.

Nadia Abdel Hamid, 46, was stabbed to death by her second husband Ahmad Abd el-Aal, 26, the newspaper said. *(AFP)*

Mother Kills Son With Salt

OXFORD, England — A woman suffering a serious personality disorder was sentenced to life in prison Tuesday for killing her four-year-old son by spiking his drink with salt.

Caroline Lloyd, who suffers from the rare personality disorder known as muenchhausen syndrome, earlier this year killed her son Christopher by feeding him with huge amounts of salt, added to his fizzy drinks.

Lloyd's son died on March 1 after several days of stomach disorders and vomiting, which doctors at a nearby hospital failed to diagnose. Lloyd told police that her son, and his younger 17-month-old brother Adrian, had "worn me down" and said she had not wanted him to die. *(AFP)*

Wolf-Like Beast Attacks Children in Southern Egypt

QENA, Egypt — A mysterious wolf-like beast which has plagued several Egyptian towns has struck again, attacking three children in southern Egypt before being shot dead, police said on Wednesday.

The beast bit and seriously injured a two-year-old boy in the face and attacked two other boys aged 12 and 14 in the legs. All three had to be hospitalized, police said. *(AFP)*

Toddler Wins $136,000 Raffle

ABU DHABI — An Indian toddler has won a 136,000-dollar raffle at Abu Dhabi airport, newspapers in the United Arab Emirates reported on Tuesday.

"The winner, Sruthisaira Reji, was unavailable for comment as she is only one and a half years old," the report said. *(AFP)*

Indian Cinema Fire Survivor Dies in Later Blaze

NEW DELHI — A 34-year-old man who lost two relatives in a movie theatre fire last Friday jumped to his death four days later when flames engulfed a warehouse, a local news agency said on Wednesday.

Harish Dhingra fell to his death late on Tuesday when he leapt from the balcony of the clothing warehouse in east Delhi, the Ynited News of India said. One other person was injured in the blaze. *(Reuter)*

Father Killed Family, Then Himself

BELLEVUE, Washington — A Hong Kong fireworks importer who killed his wife and two sons before committing suicide in their well-to-do suburban home was saddled with business and personal problems, police said.

The man left behind a detailed note spelling out what drove him to kill his family. Police spokesman Lt.Bill Ferguson said Tuesday that the letter alluded to "personal and business problems," but he would not be more specific. *(AP)*

Cambodia's Pol Pot Surrenders to Ex-Comrades

PHNOM PENH — Pol Pot, the notorious leader of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrilla group, has turned himself in to his former comrades, Khmer Rouge radio reported on Wednesday.

The radio, under the control of a rival rebel faction which has broken with the leader of the 1975-79 "killing fields" regime, said he had surrendered.

"Pol Pot came to confess on June 18," the radio said in a broadcast monitored in Phnom Penh. It did not give any details of the confession.

"The darkness of the brutal regime of Pol Pot which hung over Cambodia since 1975... now the Cambodian people have destroyed it completely," the radio said.

The radio report could not be independently confirmed and co-Prime Minister Hun Sen reacted with scepticism. Rumors of this whereabouts and even his death have abounded in the past.

"We must be careful about this," Hun Sen told Reuters. "This is not normal...Everything is still a mystery. It is dangerous." *(Reuter)*

Veterans: McVeigh Entitled to Hero's Burial

WASHINGTON — Convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh, who at times seemed at war with the U.S. government, is entitled to burial with full military honors in a national cemetery, a veterans affairs official said on Tuesday.

Like all honorably discharged U.S. military veterans, McVeigh has the right by law to be buried alongside American heroes, according to Linda Stalvey of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which administers such benefits.

The fact that McVeigh, a Persian Gulf war veteran, was convicted in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building does not revoke this right, nor does the fact that a federal jury sentenced him to death for the crime, she said. *(Reuter)*

Eight Police Die in Mystery Bogota Blast



BOGOTA, Colombia (June 17): Colombian police and rescue workers search through the debris left by a bomb that exploded in the parking lot of a police station in Fontibon west of Bogota. Police officials said eight police were killed and 15 injured. Members of the intelligence squad were inspecting a truck (C) which had been confiscated earlier June 17 when the explosion occurred, police officials said. They are investigating whether the truck had been meant as a trap.

(AFP PHOTO)

BOGOTA — Eight policemen were killed and more than 10 others were injured on Tuesday in a powerful explosion in the parking lot of a police station on the southwest outskirts of Bogota, authorities said.

Metropolitan police chief Teodoro Campo said the explosion occurred at the back of a truck that was being searched in the police station's parking lot on suspicion that it had been loaded with contraband goods.

"We have a total of eight dead and more than 10 wounded," Campo told reporters, adding that some of the injured had lost limbs or suffered other life-threatening injuries.

He said he could not rule out the possibility that a potent bomb, probably dynamite, was placed aboard the truck by leftist guerrillas or drug traffickers.

But Campo stopped short of saying the explosion was directed against the police, since the truck had been taken to the police station for inspection after being confiscated elsewhere.

National police director Gen.Rosso Jose Serrano said victims of the blast included three crack police intelligence officers. In all, two police majors, a captain, three lieutenants and two patrolmen were killed, police said. *(Reuter)*

Heavy Fighting Continues in Western Uganda

KAMPALA — Heavy fighting continued Tuesday in Uganda's western Bundibudgyo district, with hundreds of civilians fleeing by mountain paths to the town of Fort Portal, according to reports reaching Kampala Wednesday.

Ugandan rebels mixed with Rwandan guerrillas and soldiers of the defeated Zairean army crossed the border from the Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday and occupied Bundibudgyo town until troops repulsed them that evening, Minister of State for Defense Jeje Odong told AFP.

He said Tuesday that five of the 500- to 600-strong attacking force were killed on Monday and two Ugandan soldiers wounded, but the *Independent Monitor* newspaper reported Wednesday that scores of wounded government troops had been treated at hospitals in Fort Portal and Bundibudgyo. *(AFP)*

Child Among Five Killed in Karachi Violence

KARACHI, Pakistan — Five people, including a four-year-old boy, were killed in separate incidents in Pakistan's volatile city of Karachi on Wednesday, police said.

Violence has surged in this southern port in recent weeks amid renewed tension between the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) and its breakaway rival MQM-Haqiqi.

Witnesses said shopping centers and state-owned bank branches in District South were closed for a second day in a strike enforced by ethnic party guerrillas after nine people, including five MQM activists, were killed on Monday.

Police said a man slit the throat of a four-year-old boy, identified only as Arman, in Orangi town on Wednesday. There was no immediate word on the motive for the killing.

They said the bodies of two men, whose hands were tied and who had been shot, were found in jute sacks near Karimabad bridge in District Central. A third man was shot dead in Zaman town.

Gunmen also killed a journalist and wounded an ethnic party leader in the early hours of Wednesday. *(Reuter)*

Sri Lanka Tigers Kill 25 Troopers

COLOMBO — Tamil Tiger guerrillas pounded a police station and ambushed an army patrol in northeastern Sri Lanka Wednesday, killing at least 25 security personnel, officials said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked the patrol and simultaneously pounded the nearby Pulmoddai police station, officials said.

They said 23 bodies of security personnel had been recovered following Wednesday's attack. Another two constables were killed in a separate confrontation elsewhere.

Both attacks came three days after the Tigers wiped out a police patrol in the east of the country and killed 16 troopers, including many commandos of the elite special task force. *(AFP)*

UN Mediator Arrives in Brazzaville

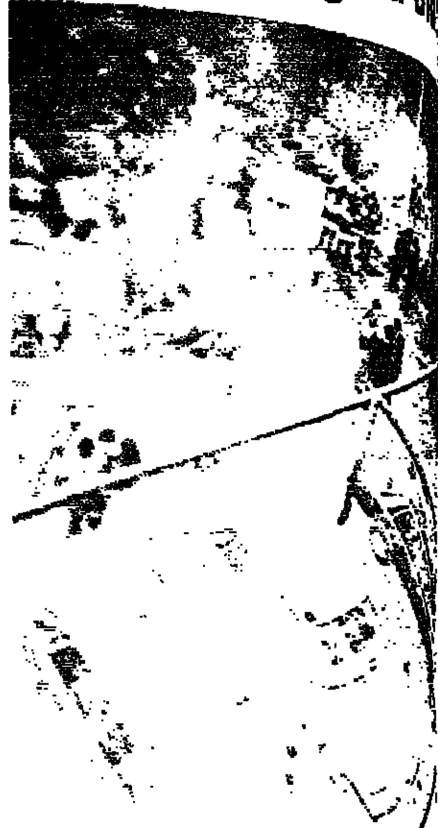
BRAZZAVILLE — A cease-fire was holding Wednesday as a senior mediator arrived in the Congolese capital to try to end a conflict pitting army troops against militiamen loyal to a former Marxist strongman.

Mohamed Sahnoun, representing both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, arrived a day after the two sides declared a three-day cease-fire following nearly two weeks of fierce clashes that have left several thousand people dead.

He flew in from Libreville in neighboring Gabon, where peace talks were held Monday between delegates of President Pascal Lissouba and former ruler Denis Sassou Nguesso. But they failed to end the conflict.

Sahnoun was to meet here with both of those leaders, and another key player, Brazzaville Mayor Bernard Kolelas, and leave later in the day. *(AFP)*





Israeli Finance Chief Quits in Tiff With Netanyahu

JERUSALEM — Israeli Finance Minister Dan Meridor resigned on Wednesday, losing a power struggle with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that went beyond their dispute over foreign currency reforms.

Meridor, citing Netanyahu's "ulterior motives", handed in a letter of resignation after ministers at a seven-hour special cabinet meeting rejected the finance chief's opposition to widening the exchange rate band of the shekel.

The resignation goes into effect on Friday.

"There was no reason to bring this issue (to the cabinet) today," a bitter-sounding Meridor, Netanyahu's long-time rival in the ruling Likud Party, told a news conference.

"When it became clear to me that there were ulterior motives for this whole affair, I informed the ministers and the prime minister that I intend to resign from the government," adding the trading band question could have been dealt with in budget discussions due to be held in another two months.

Meridor strongly opposed widening the Shekel's trading bands, fearing it would lead to a further appreciation of the Israeli currency, hurt exports and cause the economy to slow.

But Meridor hinted the row over how far the Shekel should be allowed to fluctuate against a basket of foreign currencies was the ammunition Netanyahu needed to squeeze him out.

"Netanyahu's sudden interest in the trading band...was a little strange," he said at the news conference.

Netanyahu went on the offensive after the resignation telling Israeli radio and television stations in a series of interviews that Meridor had rejected compromises and levelled "false accusations".

"I don't know why there was a reason to adopt such a harsh position when far-reaching compromises were made with the finance minister and I don't understand the need to resign and the need to make groundless and false accusations," Netanyahu told Israel radio.

"I regret his decision...and I hope that he will return to the government. There's no reason for his resignation," he said.

The Shekel has been allowed to trade in a band of seven percent above or below a diagonal slope designed to devalue the Israeli currency by six percent a year.

But high interest rates have buoyed the Shekel, forcing the Bank of Israel to buy massive amounts of dollars to prevent the Shekel from strengthening beyond its band.

The cabinet adopted by a vote of eight to three Netanyahu's proposal to widen the band to 15 percent from seven percent, a move which the Central Bank hopes will eliminate the need to intervene constantly in the currency market.

(Reuter)

Mark Rises Against Franc Before Jospin Exposes Policy

PARIS — The mark rose against the French franc in early trading here on Thursday in response to an easing of the dollar and uncertainty about how France intends to proceed towards the launch of the single currency, dealers said.

The mark was being quoted at 3.3758 francs from 3.3709 late on Wednesday.

The dollar fell to 1.7234 marks from 1.7340 and to 5.8180 French francs from 5.8449.

But against the yen the dollar was being traded at 113.57 from 113.31.

At Banque Francaise Du Commerce Exterieur (BFCE) analyst Alain Bellet said that "the rise of the mark was caused by the fall of the dollar" owing to publication of Japanese trade figures for May showing that the trade surplus had risen by 222.2 percent over 12 months.

The dollar had also fallen owing to a growing sentiment that U.S. interest rates would not be increased as had been expected, an expert at Segespar, Margaret Poigny, said.

Uncertainty about the French attitude towards the single currency hovered over the market because French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin had played down remarks by his European Affairs Minister Pierre Moscovici implying that France would not meet the conditions for the launch.

Jospin was to present the policies of his new left-wing government in a speech to parliament later on Thursday.

U.S. Seen Seeking Japan Domestic Growth, Not Yen Rise

TOKYO — A sharp surge in Japan's trade surplus in May has reinforced U.S. fears that Tokyo's troublesome trade gap is again on an upward trend.

But Washington's worries are more likely to put pressure on Tokyo to keep domestic growth on track and open its markets than to foreshadow a U.S. push for a stronger yen, economists say.

Data released on Wednesday showed Japan's customs-cleared trade surplus, often the source of bitter rows with Washington, jumped more than 200 percent in May from a year earlier to 738.27 billion yen ($6.53 billion).

The surplus with the United States surged 93 percent in May from a year earlier to 322.87 billion yen ($2.85 billion).

"We still can't make any final judgment based on two or three months or even a quarter, but the numbers do reinforce our concern that the surplus appears to be climbing again and that this year there may be a significant increase in Japan's trade surplus," a U.S. official in Tokyo told Reuters.

The official declined direct comment on what steps Japan should take to curb the rise in its surplus.

But he said: "There is an agreement on both sides that Japan also wants to have domestic demand-led growth and has pledged to avoid a resurgence in its current account surplus. That's why we're watching this closely."

The dollar edged down briefly to below 113 yen on the trade figures, as punters bet Japanese and U.S. authorities would favor a higher yen to rectify the trade gap. But it later rebounded to trade at around 113.23 yen in late morning trade.

Officials on both sides of the Pacific have sought to play down speculation of a bust-up over trade when leaders from the Group of Seven (G7) of leading industrial nations meet in Denver, Colorado on June 20-22.

"In the short term, I think our trade in goods and services balance will be affected by temporary factors or the relative demand situation in Japan and overseas markets," a Finance Ministry official told reporters late on Tuesday.

"But abstracting these various factors from the medium-term perspective, we do not envisage that Japan's trade in goods and services surplus will grow to an extent that would invite severe trade friction," the official added.

Economists agreed that Washington would bring up the trade gap in Denver but was unlikely to make a big fuss.

"I think all the posturing has taken place beforehand and I can't imagine there is going to be a lot of fisticuffs (in Denver)," said Richard Jerram, chief economist at Ing Barings.

Washington is, however, likely to pressure Tokyo to keep interest rates at the rock-bottom levels, where they have rested since the Bank of Japan slashed its official discount rate to 0.5 percent in September 1995 to prop up the economy.

"You've got to put yourself in (U.S. Treasury Secretary) Robert Rubin's shoes. He said he would like to see domestic demand expand in Japan. What is the best way to achieve that? Yen strength would hurt manufacturers...and if companies have no profits...domestic demand won't go up," said Michael Hartnett, chief economist at Merrill Lynch Japan.

"The U.S. will make damn sure that (Japanese interest) rates don't follow taxes in going up," Hartnett added.

Washington has long voiced concerns that a rise in Japan's sales tax to five percent from three from April 1 would dampen Japan's domestic growth and depress its appetite for imports, and a Finance Ministry official acknowledged on Wednesday that the tax increase was one factor behind the surplus surge.

The United States might also urge Japan to loosen its tight grip on public spending. But with few signs that Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will be willing to break a promise to get his fiscal house in order, encouraging deregulation is probably a better bet.

"They would prefer Japan to grow, but the U.S. understands that the room for manoeuvre on fiscal or monetary policy is quite limited," said Robert Feldman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers Asia. "The U.S. is concerned that Japan's budget deficit getting out of hand would be detrimental to the world economy, so that leaves deregulation."

(Reuter)

Dr. Mirzadeh, Head of Plan and Budget Organization, Pays a Visit to Gilan Nursing Home for the Disabled and Aged

Dr. Mirzadeh, the vice president and head of Plan and Budget Organization of the country, accompanied by the governor general, Engineer Tahaei inspected the sole charity unit of Gilan located at Soleymandarab, Rasht in his one-day visit to Gilan Province.



Dr. Mirzadeh, head of Plan and Budget Organization, paying a visit to Gilan nursing home

Welcoming the visitors, Mr. Rezvan, the managing director of Gilan Nursing Home for the Disabled and Aged, said, "This charity organization is the only charity unit throughout the province and over 550 different handicapped people including the aged people, isolated and spinal-paralyzed children as well victims of earthquake from four corners of the country have been hospitalized here and over 5,000 sick people have been listed to be hospitalized in turn. Due to the ever-increasing demand of the needy, another nursing home is being established in a land of 17 hectares in a health welfare complex. Up to now, over 20 percent of its construction operations have been implemented."

Visiting the different wards of the nursing home, Dr. Mirzadeh, head of state Plan and Budget Organization, in his short interview with the journalists said, "I witnessed the efforts and devotion of the sympathetic management of this holy place." Then he went on to say, "The charity unit from viewpoint of rendering services and hygienic issues is unique in the country and I make every effort to cooperate with this charity organization and remove its problems through studying its difficulties and shortcomings.

The Account Numbers of Gilan Nursing Home for the Disabled and Aged

Rasht Bank Melli, Central Branch	90006
Rasht Bank Tejarat, Central Branch	6848
Rasht Bank Saderat, Central Branch	2780
Rasht Bank Mellat, Central Branch	56662

UN Urges Global Action to Stop Desertification

ROME — United Nations agricultural and food aid experts called on rich countries recently to step up global efforts to stop huge chunks of the earth's surface from being turned into wasteland.

Senior officials from the UN's Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Program and Food and Agriculture Organization marked the third international day to combat desertification with an appeal for urgent action.

"Even as we meet, more dry lands on our planet are turning into unproductive wastelands," IFAD chairman Fawzi al-Sultan told a news conference.

He said a 1994 convention to combat desertification, which was drawn up in the wake of the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and took force last December, showed the international community was committed to fighting the problem.

"But commitment is not enough. For the convention to be effective this commitment must be translated into immediate action at both the economic and operating level," he said.

"While developing countries are called upon to work out effective national action programs, developed countries must increase efforts in support of this process."

Bahman Mansuri, director of IFAD's economic policy and resource strategy department, said the UN estimated that an area of fertile land equivalent to the size of Ireland was being lost every year at an annual cost of $9-12 billion.

He said many programmes were already under way — IFAD has invested more than $3 billion in dryland areas since it was set up in 1978 — but was concerned at the level of assistance from developed countries.

"One would expect more readiness on the part of developed countries in shouldering the responsibility of financing," he told Reuters. "There's a feeling that they're still sitting on the fence."

The 115 signatories of the convention are due to gather for the first time in Rome from September 29 to October 10 to work out strategies for where to go from here.

Corrado Clini, director-general of the Italian Environment Ministry, said the meeting would not be just a talking shop.

"The international signatories have recognized that desertification is a global environmental problem. That's a major change to the previous approach which considered it to be a local problem," he told the news conference.

More than 40 percent of the earth's land area consists of drylands at risk from desertification, IFAD said.

The problem was at its most acute in Africa but even developed countries, such as the United States, Australia and southern European states, were suffering loss of productive land, according to the UN group.

"The responsibility for fighting desertification is global," Mansuri said, adding that he hoped that innovative sources of finance could now be opened up, such as debt swaps or taxes.

(Reuter)

Anti-Smoking Activists Demand Global Settlement

LONDON — Anti-smoking activists from around the world signed a joint letter on Tuesday urging that any settlement in U.S. tobacco talks take other countries into consideration.

They said they were afraid that talks aimed at settling a raft of lawsuits by U.S. states against tobacco companies would leave the firms free to act as they wished in other countries.

"An American settlement that excludes the rest of the world or attempts to give the tobacco companies global immunity is unethical and will be ineffective from the public health perspective," said Dr. Judith Mackay, director of the Hong Kong-based Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control.

"If sales fall in the United States, or the U.S. companies are forced to pay a substantial settlement award, the tobacco multinationals can be expected to intensify their invasion of the Third World and Eastern Europe," the campaigners, from 19 countries, said in an open letter.

The U.S. states are trying to recoup medical costs for treating smokers, and similar moves are afoot in the Canadian province of British Columbia.

The campaigners said any settlement should apply controls to all cigarettes made in the United States, including those for export, and should include a global code of conduct on issues such as advertising aimed at children.

It should also ensure that non-Americans get the same levels of compensation as American victims.

A key negotiator in the U.S. tobacco talks said he was hopeful a settlement would be reached this week.

Sources close to the talks said that one of the most contentious issues that still remains is whether individuals would be able to sue for punitive damages.

They said both sides had already agreed to a number of health care provisions, with the tobacco industry agreeing to cut advertising and stop using cartoon characters, pay penalties if youth smoking is not reduced, and fund programs to help smokers quit.

(Reuter)

Cogema Admits Taking Greenpeace Gear

CHERBOURG, France — The French state nuclear company Cogema said on Tuesday that it had removed Greenpeace radioactivity monitoring equipment from a pipe discharging waste from a nuclear plant into the English Channel.

A statement from Cogema came after the environmental group had accused Cogema of sending frogmen and armed men to steal their equipment on Monday night.

Cogema said its divers had removed Greenpeace's equipment from a discharge pipe at its La Hague nuclear reprocessing plant in Cherbourg, northern France, for security reasons.

"In order to ensure the security of our site, we are required to take measures to prevent the possibility of dangerous incidents resulting from ill-intentioned acts, such as obstructing the discharge pipe," it said.

But Greenpeace said cogema was trying to silence it after the activist group announced last week it had found "stupefying" radioactivity levels, above those allowed by the European Union, in sludge on the seabed near the end of the discharge pipe.

"La Hague is clearly desperate to block our efforts to inform the public about radioactive contamination from La Hague plutonium factory," Damon Moglen of Greenpeace said.

New Health Minister Bernard Kouchner told the daily *Le Monde* in an interview published on Tuesday that he had asked a state agency which polices ionizing radiation to "verify as quickly as possible the contamination level at La Hague and propose necessary measures".

Greenpeace said in a statement its activists had witnessed and filmed the "armed intervention" to remove its monitoring equipment.

A Greenpeace spokesman said some of the Cogema workers were seen on videotape trying to cover their faces with their hands and their coats to avoid being identified. Two people could be seen carrying revolvers, he said.

It was the second time Cogema divers had taken Greenpeace equipment, the group said. The first time was early on Sunday.

Greenpeace was filing a lawsuit with the public prosecutor in Cherbourg, the statement said.

Greenpeace said last week it found high levels of radioactive isotopes including cobalt, americium, barium, antimony and europium from 10 kg (22 lbs) of sediment taken near the end of the pipe.

La Hague, which reprocesses spent nuclear fuel from countries including Germany and Japan, has accused Greenpeace of skewing its results by measuring too close to the pipe's end.

In January two French scientists said children who regularly played on the beach, or people who ate local seafood, had a higher risk of leukemia.

(Reuter)

Shark Attack Victim Likely to Lose Her Leg

AUCKLAND — A New Zealand woman attacked by a shark in Fiji is likely to have her leg amputated later Wednesday, her husband said.

Liz Rogers was airlifted out of Fiji on Monday after she was attacked by a shark while diving about 30 meters (100 feet) offshore at a reef near Taveuni Island in Fiji on Sunday.

Her husband John said desperate attempts by a team of plastic surgeons at Middlemore Hospital here had almost certainly failed to save her badly mauled left leg.

In one bite the shark ripped a gaping hole in her upper thigh, tearing out a huge chunk of flesh and soft tissue and severing her main artery. She was without a blood supply to the lower part of her leg for more than 24 hours until she arrived at Middlemore.

After an eight-hour operation on Monday and a second two-hour operation Tuesday, when a vein was grafted from her right leg in an attempt to restore the blood flow, surgeons were now preparing to amputate the leg, Rogers said.

"The leg appears to be dead and it appears also there is no sciatic nerve supply. She is going into theater and at this stage the intention is to amputate the leg but until the surgeons start to work on her no one can be sure."

John Rogers said his wife was not able to talk but could hear what was being said to her.

He said she was a "gutsy little lady" and would not have the slightest problem coping without her left leg.

John Rogers said he acted instinctively when he first saw the gaping wound.

"I put my fist into it as hard as I could on the way back (to the beach) but I couldn't really see what I was doing.

"We were very, very lucky on two counts.

"One was that the shark only hit us once. If it had bitten her again on the way back in, and it had three or four minutes to do that then I wouldn't have had enough hands to have stopped the bleeding.

"And if it had hit me, I probably wouldn't have had the strength to get her ashore."

(AFP)

Fat Man Sues Over Discrimination

BRASILIA, Brazil — A Brazilian man has initiated legal proceedings against a dentist who refused to treat him because he was fat, a television station reported on Tuesday.

"He said he would not treat me because his chair might break," 320-pound (145 kg) Ronaldo Bertolotti told SBT television. He filed a complaint with a police station in Maringa, Parana State, citing discrimination.

But the dentist said he was only concerned about Bertolotti's safety. "I didn't want to treat him because I was worried that if the chair broke, he might have hurt himself," Antonio de Castro said.

(Reuter)

Lebanese Police Burn $6.5 Mn Worth of Drugs

BEIRUT — Lebanon destroyed 1,924 kg (4,233 lb) of confiscated drugs worth $6.5 million on Tuesday, police said.

"In the framework of the strict and serious plan of Lebanon's government to fight drugs, a quantity with an estimated value of $6.5 million was destroyed at Bourj Hammoud's incinerator," a police statement said.

The statement added that the drugs included cocaine, heroin, hallucinogenic pills and 1,795 kg (3,949 lb) of hashish.

They were burned in the presence of Syrian, Jordanian and Cypriot anti-narcotics officers invited to Lebanon to observe the government's efforts to combat the drug trade.

Lebanese and Syrian forces have since 1992 drastically reduced drug cultivation in Lebanon, especially in the Bekaa Valley, a center for the lucrative drugs trade during the 1975-1990 civil war.

(Reuter)

Diana, Elizabeth Dole Appeal for Land Mines Ban

WASHINGTON — Princess Diana and Elizabeth Dole joined forces Tuesday to heighten international awareness of the devastating effects of land mines and to appeal for a worldwide ban.

The two women also urged developed countries to increase assistance for mine victims and not to overlook the crisis just because it is not taking place in their own back yard.

"If on the backroads of England or America a false step could cost a leg, a life, a child, what we're about today would not be an admirable cause; it would be an urgent crisis," said Dole, who heads the American Red Cross.

"The detachment that comes from mileage and time zones is understandable, but it is not justified because the value of life does not diminish with distance and the cry of a child is no less wrenching because it is faint," added Dole, speaking in front of a memorial honoring Red Cross workers.

Dole and Diana were to attend an American Red Cross gala later Monday at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. They hoped to raise $500,000 for land mine victims around the world.

Diana's trip to Washington stems from her involvement in an anti-land mine campaign launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross. In January, she made a high-profile visit to Angola, where she met with mine victims, many of them children.

Diana said those children and others in places such as Afghanistan and Cambodia live in countries that lack the resources to care for them.

"They may also become a burden to their families as most will have difficulty making a living and may well be seen as social outcasts because of their disability," she added.

She said achieving a global ban on antipersonnel mines was equally important to helping the victims themselves.

Last week, a majority of the senate urged approval of legislation to outlaw U.S. deployments of land mines by 2000, and more than a third of the House wrote President Clinton asking him to join a Canadian effort for a legally binding, comprehensive international treaty.

Canada has invited officials from around the world to Ottawa in December to sign a pact banning the production, export or use of antipersonnel land mines. The effort has the support of more than 70 countries, joined by Britain last month.

Clinton instead favors a ban negotiated through the United Nations' 61-nation conference on disarmament. He has said the UN Drive was more likely to encourage nations such as China and Russia to join.

An estimated 120 million unexploded land mines remain buried in more than 70 countries, according to the American Red Cross.

(AP)

Bulgaria Police Step Up Fight Against Car Theft

SOFIA — Bulgaria's police said on Tuesday they planned to crack down on the trade in stolen luxury cars by helping buyers to check the engine numbers of vehicles offered for sale.

Organized groups, often working with gangs in Western Europe, alter the appearance of stolen cars, change licence plates, scrape off engine and car body numbers and engrave new ones to match forged documents.

"Working groups at the (Interior) Ministry are preparing a procedure under which scraped off engine and car body numbers would be revealed by a special apparatus and each conscientious buyer would be interested in such checks," National Police Director Slavcho Bosilkov told reporters.

He said there would be a fee for the service.

Car thefts make up one fifth of all crime in Bulgaria and police say many stolen cars pass through the Balkan country to Ukraine and Russia and even to the Far East.

Bosilkov said police were currently looking for 51,400 stolen cars, all luxury marquees such as Mercedes, BMW, Audi and Porsche. "Some of them are re-exported and some of them stay in the country," he told Reuters.

Bosilkov said that for the first five months of the year the number of stolen cars had decreased to 4,639 from 5,170 during the same period last year.

(Reuter)



هكذا من الأصل

JUNE 19, 1997

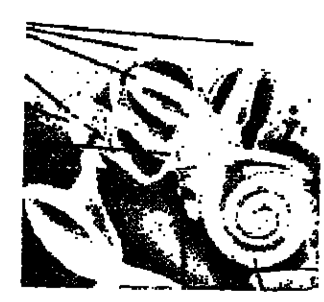
Lebanese Police Burn $6.5 Mn Worth of Drugs

Elizabeth Dole Appeal ... Land Mines Ban









First Cases of Hantavirus Spread Between Humans Suspected in Argentina

ATLANTA — A hantavirus outbreak killed 11 people and sickened nine others in Argentina last year in the first known case in which the respiratory illness spread from person to person, U.S. health officials say.

Scientists previously thought hantavirus pulmonary syndrome could sicken people only if they inhaled microscopic bits of rodent droppings.

No cases of person-to-person transmission have been documented in the United States, where the viral strain that causes respiratory illness was first identified in 1993. Some U.S. experts said there is no reason for panic yet.

"We are hoping physicians will be looking for this," said Dr. C.J. Peters, chief of the special pathogens branch at the centers for disease control and prevention. "We also will be looking for this in our central registry of cases."

Hantaviruses are a family of viruses named for the Hantaan river in Korea, where the first strain was discovered decades ago. That strain infected about 3,000 American soldiers during the Korean war, killing 190 by destroying their kidneys.

There are dozens of strains throughout the world, but none of them until now have shown they could spread from person to person, Peters said.

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, caused by a strain of the virus contained in rodent feces, first emerged when it killed dozens of people in the four corners re gion, where Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah Meet.

Since then, hantavirus has sickened 162 people in 27 states, and 76 of them have died, the CDC said.

The respiratory illness starts out with flu-like symptoms that worsen and can become deadly. The lungs drown in fluid and the heart slows down, sending patients into shock. About half of people with hantavirus die. There is no treatment for hantavirus.

In the coastal towns of El Bolson, Bariloche and Esquel in southern Argentina, 18 people got sick between September and December with hardly any rodents around. In addition, two more people who had contact with El Bolson residents but never went there became ill.

A 41-year-old man was the first to get sick. In three weeks, his mother and his doctor fell ill. Four weeks after that, the doctor's wife became sick, and it spread from there.

The doctor's wife traveled to Buenos Aires for medical care, and then her doctor got sick. When the daughter of the first man's maid got sick after riding in a car with her, scientists knew this was no ordinary hantavirus outbreak.

"We first thought: could the rodents get into the car?" Peters recalled. "The Argentines took that car apart looking for rodent nests and couldn't find anything."

Health officials put out traps for rodents in the area where the first patient lived and found only a few. The man had moved into a new, brick home from a wooden cabin several weeks before he got sick.

"We believe the virus ultimately came from a rodent, but it appears it may have been passed on through several persons," Peters said. Three of the ill were doctors who treated the hantavirus patients.

The CDC has kept close tabs on U.S. health care workers since the disease first emerged. In 1993, blood tests of 396 workers - 266 of whom were exposed to hantavirus patients - found none were sick.

"There is not a single case in the United States or Canada yet where there is a smoking gun," said Brian Hjelle, a molecular epidemiologist at the University of New Mexico.

The only U.S. case that came close was in Crownpoint, New Mexico, in 1993 when four adults living in the same trailer got sick. But the trailer was overrun with rodents, said Dr. Fred Koster, who cared for the first hantavirus patients diagnosed in New Mexico.

"The Argentina cases are worth taking notice of in North America and to continue looking for that possibility," Koster said. "We have to ask ourselves why is Argentina's virus different from ours. That simply remains a puzzle."

(Reuter)

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

SOLDIERS IN China DURING THE 19th CENTURY WORE ARMOR MADE FROM *PLEATED PAPER* THAT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO *WITHSTAND ARROWS!*

SWISS ARTIST PAUL KLEE (1879-1940) WROTE WITH HIS RIGHT HAND *BUT PAINTED WITH HIS LEFT!*

A 26-MILE-LONG MARATHON *WAS RUN IN 1995 THAT INCLUDED* RUNNING OVER GLACIERS and FROZEN RIVERBEDS, and AROUND ICEBERGS *ON ANTARCTICA'S King George Island!*

SCRABBLE® BRAND G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

P₃	S₁	O₁	L₁	Y₄	C₃	C₃	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A₁	A₁	K₅	F₄	S₁	L₁	L₁		RACK 2
S₁	A₁	E₁	E₁	M₃	L₁	S₁		RACK 3
C₃	D₂	A₁	E₁	O₁	P₃	H₄	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

5-29-95

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

A₁	I₁	R₁	I₁	N₁	G₂		RACK 1 =	7
B₃	I₁	B₃	L₁	I₁	S₁	T₁	RACK 2 =	83
D₂	E₁	F₄	E₁	N₁	S₁	E₁	RACK 3 =	61
G₂	U₁	N₁	N₁	Y₄			RACK 4 =	9
W₄	H₄	I₁	T₁	E₁	N₁		RACK 5 =	16

PAR SCORE 110-120 JUDD'S TOTAL 176

5-28-95

DENNIS THE MENACE

by Hank Ketcham

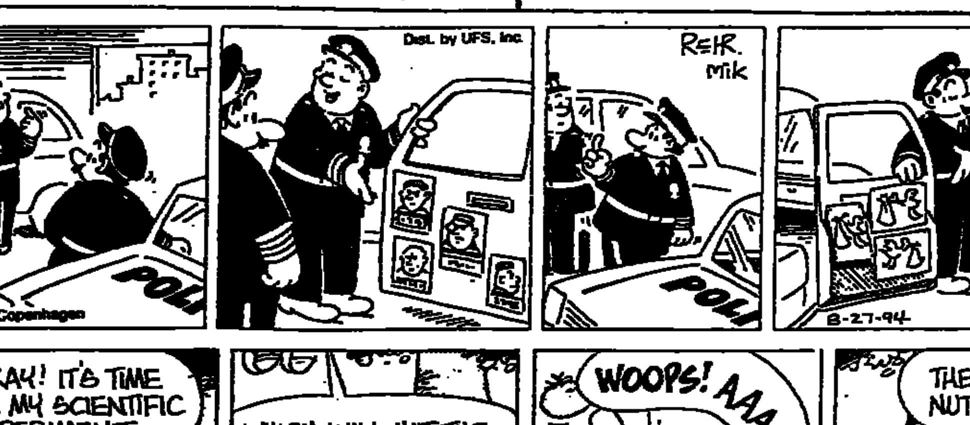
"C'MON, MOM! I'M GETTING *SHOPWORN!*"

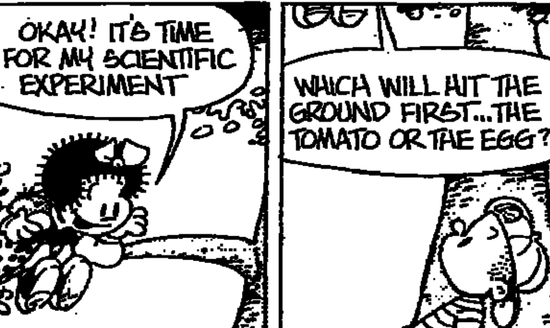
HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Michael A. Petti, M.D.



Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.









THOUGHT

Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.

(Thomas Merton)

PRAYER

Noon	13:05
Evening	20:46
Dawn (tomorrow)	04:00
Sunrise (tomorrow)	05:48

FDA Warns of Abortion, Sterilization Internaet Kits

WASHINGTON — Do-it-yourself kits promoted on the Internet for home abortions and female self-sterilizations can be lethal and should not be used, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned on Tuesday.

The FDA said these products pose "significant, possibly life-threatening risks," and the sterilisation kit uses drugs not adequately tested on humans for mutations and cancer.

In addition, because the source of the drugs is unknown their purity may be suspect, said Dr. Lisa Rarick, an obstetrician-gynecologist who heads the FDA's division of reproductive and urologic drug products.

The FDA urged consumers not to buy such kits through the Internet or any other way, and noted that U.S. law prohibits the sale and promotion of unapproved medical products.

Possible penalties range from fines and other civil and criminal penalties, depending on how severe the adverse effects of the kits were, FDA spokesman Brad Stone said.

Another danger with both kits is that both abortion and sterilization require extensive monitoring by health care professionals, which would be lacking, Rarick said in a telephone interview.

The abortion kit inaccurately touts itself as a "complete kit for early pregnancy termination without surgery ... scientifically proved safe and unrisky," the FDA said.

This kit uses a combination of drugs — methotrexate and misoprostol — not approved by the FDA to terminate pregnancy, and an FDA health assessment found that using the kit without a doctor's supervision could cause heavy vaginal bleeding or even death.

In addition, birth defects can result if a pregnancy is carried to term after taking these drugs.

"Certainly the risk with the abortion kit is that there are specific conditions for use of these kind of products," Rarick said. "You usually have to see your doctor three times, and they can't be used after certain pregnancy dates. It's an involved process that involves counselling." This process would not be followed with the home kit, she said.

The self-sterilization kit for women claims to use a method similar to inserting an intra-uterine contraceptive device and to have a lower risk than surgical sterilization, according to the FDA statement.

But Rarick said the kit uses pellets of quinacrine hydrochloride, an unapproved drug that can

(Contd on Pg. 14)

An Exclusive Interview With Governor of Varamin, Ali Akbar Nassiri

BRIEF INFORMATION ON CHARACTERISTICS OF VARAMIN

Mr. Ali Akbar Nassiri, the governor of Varamin, took part in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times* to elaborate on the background and characteristics of the town as follows:

Varamin is limited to Lavasan from the north, Khar from the east, the desert from the south, and to the cave and Pashapouyeh from the west. Siahkouh Mountain is located at northern Varamin and Jajroud River passes through them. The lands of Varamin have been formed of Jajroud River's sediment.

Varamin is considered as one of the historical spots of Iran. When Ray was destroyed, its residents immigrated to Tehran villages and in particular Varamin which was near Ray.

The important historical monuments of Varamin are: Ala'eddin Tower belonged to seventh century A.H., Emamzadeh Yahya (AS) mausoleum of eight century A.H., Jame' Mosque belonged to Ilkhani abu Saeid's era which thanks to its numerous decorations and engraved tiling and different calligraphies is one of the invaluable artistic works of Iran, and Shahzadeh Hussein mausoleum belonged to the Mogul's era.

The results of studies on the recent discoveries in town of Pishva, (holy shrine of Emamzadeh Ja'far (AS)), Varamin reveal that Varamin enjoys a historical background. At the first millennium B.C., i.e. about 1,250 to 1,300 years before Christ, Varamin at that time has enjoyed a considerable growth and the left works before the appearance of Islam such as several castles at four corners of the town are the indicators of civilization. Ray and Varamin were conquered by the Muslims at the beginning of Islam's appearance in Iran, i.e. at the third decade A.H. and Varamin has been one of the places in Islamic eras inhabited by the Shia people.

The fifth, sixth and even eight centuries have been the periods that Varamin has had the most changes and construction and some have introduced the eight century as the era of the best changes. Varamin was mainly damaged when the Afghans attacked in a special period. In fact, it can said that Varamin was destroyed by the Afghans.

It has special adventures in different historical eras which cannot be explained here. At the Qajar era, the Turkish people who lived beyond Caucasus immigrated to Varamin and in fact many of Qajar people dwelt here and also three generations in Safavid, Zandieh and Qajar eras. It is even believed that one of the reasons that Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar changed the capital, Shiraz, and introduced Tehran as the new capital of the country was the proponents of Qajar dynasty in Varamin. For instance, Yahya Zaka' says, "Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar wore a copper crown under an old tree in Saeid Abad village." It shows that Qajar has had a base in Varamin. The great owners of Varamin plain were from Qajar dynasty's people. And special khans ruled the town in Qajar and First Pahlavi periods.

Varamin can be considered as a town frequently selected by the khans. At Second Pahlavi era, the brave people of Varamin and Pishva were treated with anger by the cursed Shah because they defended late Imam (RA) in the bloody event of Khordad 15 that a lot of people were martyred. In fact, the people of Varamin who were treated with anger by both Qajar and Pahlavi were deprived of their rights. Fortunately, Varamin thanks to the revolutionary spirits of its people who participated in Khordad 15 event, 8 years of sacred defense and offered so many martyrs to the Revolution — about 1,600 martyrs in Varamin revealing that two to five members of some of the families have been martyred — has enjoyed a special characteristic and for the same reason the Islamic Republic system pays much attention to it.



The governor breaking the ground of warehouse of agricultural products

Varamin Islamic Historical Works

Varamin has so nice, eye-catching and really precious Islamic historical works in the Islamic era. For instance, Jame' Mosque of Varamin from viewpoint of architecture is an invaluable mosques of the country. Ala'oddoleh or



The governor delivering a lecture after inauguration of some cultural and construction in Pakdasht

Ala'eddin Tower is one of the works of the Islamic era where one of the grandchildren of Imam Sajjad (AS) has been buried there. The tower is similar to Gonbad-e Qaboos Tower which has been introduced as one of the most important historical works from viewpoint of stability of the building since no cracks have appeared in its walls. Ala'oddoleh Tower has been built with the same method. The most famous tomb of infallible Imams' children is Emamzadeh Ja'far (AS) approved by Grand Ayatollah Najafi Marashi according to the documents and his skills in identification of Islamic men. He has offered an exact and documented date for this son of Imam and believes that Imam's son, Ja'far (AS), has been martyred in a conflict and since he has led a group, he was later called Pishva that is a grace for the town of Pishva which is considered a place of pilgrimage.

Another historical monument which can be named is the famous Bahram Castle which is located in 70 to 80 kilometers of southeastern Varamin. The monument belongs to the Safavid era, but it seems that it has been renovated in the Safavid era which has been the hunting castle of Safavid dynasty. Ainolrashid is another monument which is located in 14 kilometers of the previous monument beside a spring and there are also Sardar Castle and Gohar Shahi Castle which has been the shelter of deputy governor Hussein Kashi. Bahram Castle and Ainolrashid are located in Siahkouh area which was a good place for those who were prosecuted in the past by the governmental forces. Hussein Kashi had also built a shelter between Sefid Abad Mountain and Sardar Castle and took refuge when he was followed.

There are different animals for hunting in Siahkouh area and it was the hunting ground of Qajar kings and now is protected by Environment Protection Organization. Gabri Castle or Iraj Castle is also one of the most important castles. According to the foreign tourist and Iranian spectators, the castle belonged to early times of Qajar ruling and has had military fortifications. Aminulsultan in his report says, "The castle has had 36 fortifications. Sanioddolleh has said that the number of fortifications has been 34 and it has been one of important castles from viewpoint of war and military tactics. There were four gates at four sides which were good shelters during the enemy's attacks.

At the first millennium B.C., i.e. about 1,250 to 1,300 years before Christ, Varamin has enjoyed a considerable growth and the left works before the appearance of Islam such as several castles at four corners of the town are the indicators of civilization.

Varamin is located at 35 kilometers of Tehran and between Eastern longitude of 51.39 degrees and Northern latitude of 35.19 degrees and at a height of 195 meters above sea level. Varamin is limited from the north to Alborz skirts, from the south to the salt desert, from the west to Ray and from the east to town of Garmsar. The length of the area from the north to the south is 60 kilometers and from the east to the west 36 kilometers and it has 20,431 square kilometers area.

The cultivable lands of Varamin are around 530 thousand hectares out of which about 30 to 35 thousand hectares of lands are under cultivation. Its climate is dry temperate and semi-desert type which was affected with two positive and negative factors. The desert, dry, cold and hot weather is the negative element and the wind blown from the west and northern Alborz Mountain is the positive element. Of course, the latter element's impacts are not so much to nullify the desert's negative effects. The annual rainfall of Varamin has been estimated about 136 to 170 millimeters out of which 14 percent is evaporated. In other words, it is 100 millimeters less than the country's average rainfall. The temperature is between 14 to 43 degrees centigrade in Tir.

Another issue is the water reservoirs. There are four reservoirs: the water of Jajroud River, Tehran underground sewage, the surface water and the underground water which are supplied through deep and semi-deep wells and the other is a salt river which passes through Varamin and flows into the salt lake. There are about 1,300 wells



BRIEF INFORMATION ON CHARACTERISTICS OF VARAMIN

with average power of 40 liters per second. The depth of wells is about 140 meters. The capacity of Jajroud River is 10 cubic meters per second on average. The flowing sewage of the salt river irrigates about 10,000 hectares of land in the southern parts.

The main agricultural products of Varamin are wheat, barley, maize, cotton, hay and ornamental flowers.

Some part of water of Latian Dam which has been constructed in Lavasan belongs to Varamin. If Varamin's total portion of Latian Dam's water is transferred to the town, the water required by the lands of Varamin will be 100 percent supplied. But due to the urgent need of Tehran in water, a little portion is transferred to Varamin. Today, the town needs the water of Tehran sewage. If the issue of purification and division of water which is considered in the Second Plan is materialized, a great part of the agricultural lands of Varamin will be cultivated.

The studies on constructing Mamloo Dam have been carried out. The other is Lar Dam of which Varamin enjoys. The annual agricultural production of Varamin is about 49,000 tons of wheat which are planted and harvested in a land of 19,000 hectares, 77,000 tons of barley, 187 tons of maize, 315 tons of peas, 396 tons of beans, 331 tons of lentils, 42 tons of grass peas. The figures are approximate. The cotton is cultivated in about 10,000 hectares, summer crops in 10,000 hectares and around 80,000 hectares of lands due to the lack of water are remained useless. It is hoped that the lands will be irrigated and cultivated with the above-mentioned reservoirs.

According to the latest researches, a reservoir of which about four cubic meters of water per second can be utilized is the Tehran canal which now enjoys 15 cubic meters per second. The other alternative is the purification of Tehran sewage. Varamin can utilize an average eight cubic meters per second if the plan is executed. Mamloo Dam which is to be constructed will have about 90 million cubic meters capacity. Water can be used much better through mechanized tools and modern methods such as rain and drip irrigation. It is hoped that the filtration of Tehran sewage as a national project in the Second Plan will be implemented as soon as possible, and also Mamloo Dam plan will be seriously executed. A bright future for Varamin's agriculture is anticipated in case of collecting the water of subterranean canals and springs of Tehran.

Varamin thanks to its animal husbandry enjoys a special status. Varamin received some gold and bronze medals for its pure-bred Holstein cattle. About 162,000 tons of milk are produced per annum. The sheep are also bred in the town and totally some 28,000 tons of red meat of the calves and sheep are produced annually. Varamin is also famous for its poultry farming because some 12 million chicks equivalent to 35,000 tons of white meat, i.e. half of the production of Tehran Province are produced yearly. There are several factories and brick kilns in Varamin and Qarchak respectively. The sand factories, the giant Pars Ceram Factory which has high quality products and several newly established factories in Pakdasht have brought about a good status for Varamin.

Concerning the cultural activities, Varamin enjoys three higher education centers including Aburayhan Training Complex where many B.A. and M.A. students are studying in the fields of agriculture and health, Payam-e Noor University which is located in Qarchak and also Islamic Azad University in both Varamin and Qarchak. All of them reveal that Varamin is a cultural town. There are three education districts as follows:

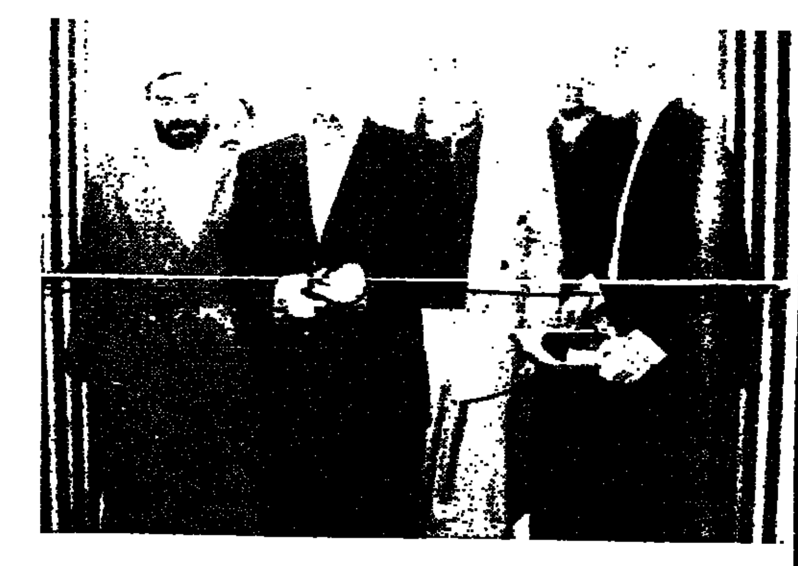
1) Qarchak Education District
2) Varamin Education District
3) Pakdasht Education District

About 160 thousand students are studying in these three districts showing that Varamin from cultural point of view enjoys a special position.

The underway construction projects are listed below:

1) The establishment of sports complex in Qarchak (to be inaugurated soon)
2) The establishment of Shahid Sattari Cultural Complex in Qarchak
3) The construction of fire station building
4) The inauguration of health center in Qarchak
5) The construction of building of Payam-e Noor University
6) The establishment of big 224-bed hospital of Social Security Organization
7) The establishment of Vali-e Asr Square inspired by the epigraphs of Varamin Jame' Mosque
8) The establishment of vegetable and fruit market in eastern Varamin
9) The establishment of an administrative complex in the center of town
10) The establishment of finance, education, *oqaf* (endowment), relief committee, telecommunications and municipality buildings
11) The establishment of Varamin *mossalla* (the place for prayer) through efforts and cooperation of the general public, Friday prayer leader, Governor's Office, municipality and other organizations
12) The establishment of cultural center and its inauguration in the Ten-Day Dawn
13) The establishment of Shahid Ardestani boulevard and square decorated with a plane by the Air Force and through incessant efforts of Pishva Municipality in town of Pishva
14) The establishment of the station and railway of Tehran-Varamin-Pishva through efforts of Ministry of Roads and Transportation as well as Railway Head's Office
15) The establishment of Azad University in Pishva
16) The establishment Daneshgah square and boulevard in Pishva
17) The establishment of Helal Ahmar Cultural Complex in Pishva
18) The establishment of District Governor's Office in Pishva
19) The establishment of municipality in Javadabad which later built some streets and boulevards
20) The establishment of sports complexes, training complexes, schools, libraries, streets and boulevards and also municipality and its inauguration in 1376 as well as watershed management by Construction Jihad in Pakdasht


Mr. Nassiri making a pilgrimage to Pishva Emamzadeh Ja'far (AS) holy shrine during his visit to the shrine development plan



Since Friday prayer has an essential role in promoting the religious culture of the people and also combatting the cultural assault, Varamin has four Friday prayer organizations in: 1) Qarchak 2) Pishva 3) Pakdasht 4) Varamin

A glance at the town is enough to find out the various construction activities quickly and favorably implemented for supplying potable water for the people, building some wells by the Water and Sewage Organization to solve the problem of drinking water for the residents of Qarchak and other towns.

Varamin has also involved in several eye-catching activities concerning the export.

Regarding telecommunications, many villages have been equipped with telecommunications network.

Also, the villages one after the other have been equipped with city gas.

Most of the alleys of the villages have been paved with asphalt. All these activities have been carried out after the Revolution. At the post-Revolution era, Varamin has been paid special attention and all the activities are satisfactory.

Of course, some projects are being planned and since the Planning Committee makes every effort to receive the approval of the projects, it is expected that all of them will be executed and promise a bright future.

The agriculture and industry sectors should be activated more than before. The intermediate industries having a direct relation with the agriculture sector should be also developed. Hence, providing the irrigation water for agriculture activities is a must.

At the end it should be mentioned that the population of Varamin according to the census taken in 1365 was 315,000 people, and 560,000 people according to the 1375 census. The irregular immigration of people is the main reason which naturally causes cultural, financial and economic problems.

Varamin governor paying a visit to the cemetery of martyrs at the yard of Emamzadeh Ja'far (AS) holy shrine

One City, Two Lives

HONG KONG — At the top floor of the Peninsula Hotel, with all Hong Kong at his feet, a millionaire fetes his latest success with a family feast of shark's fin, abalone and bird's nest soup, washed down with a premium French drink.

A few streets away, an old lady with a bent back retrieves metal cans from a rubbish bin, which she will sell to recyclers for five Hong Kong cents (0.6 U.S. cents) apiece.

Hong Kong likes to trumpet its success to the world, but it is a success that comes with a price — a widening gap between rich and poor.

Tonight, this income will provide her with a little fried rice, supplemented by hot tea, before she goes to sleep in a cage, the bunk encased by wire mesh that she calls home.

Hong Kong likes to trumpet its success to the world, but it is a success that comes with a price — a widening gap between rich and poor.

Since 1989, the wealthiest 10 percent of the population has seen its share of the overall wealth rise by 17.5 percent, mainly thanks to its ability to invest in the booming property market. The poorest 10 percent, without the benefit of capital, has seen its share of the cake fall by a huge 31.5 percent.

"The irony is that the more prosperous Hong Kong becomes, the more street sleepers we have," said Reverend Daniel Tse, director of the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association, which cares for the destitute.

Ng Wai-Tung, an official with the grass-roots Society for Community Organizations, said around 810,000 of Hong Kong's population of 6.4 million live below the poverty line.

The line is determined as being half of the average monthly wage of 9,600 dollars (U.S.$1,242) and an average family income per month of 17,500 dollars for the statistical average of 3.3 people per household.

"Hong Kong has put too much emphasis on the property, finance and insurance sectors. People in manufacturing have suffered negative income growth and been victimized," Ng said.

Typical of people in that plight are the Cheung family, whose four members get by on a public housing estate with an income of 6,500 dollars from the husband's job as a storekeeper in a factory.

"The financial strain on the family is very great. We always have a tight budget," said Mrs. Cheung.

"We save money by skipping breakfast and having brunch instead. Going out for entertainment, such as going to a karaoke bar, is out of the question. We can only watch television."

"There is little care and warmth, both from the government and the community, for people at the bottom."

Tam Dip-Wan, 71, living on a government payout of 1,935 dollars per month, said it was a struggle to live a dignified life.

"Deducting rent, phone bills and other living costs, I just have around 40 dollars to spend each day. I try to save money by eating less fruit, but I dread falling sick. If I have to see a doctor, that's 100 dollars less in my purse."

Belying its image as a free-wheeling capitalist enclave with gold Rolls-Royces, Hong Kong in fact has over the years developed a social safety net.

It may not be the Scandinavian model, but more than half of the population live in government-subsidized housing; there is a network of public hospitals that are generally good; and the destitute can turn to help under a scheme called comprehensive social security assistance (CSSA).

Even so, the government came under fire in March when it predicted for 1997 a record surplus of 31.7 billion dollars, yet increased spending on welfare by only 9.1 percent, a figure considered by many to be miserly.

The surpluses, from 1996 to the end of fiscal 2000, could total 105.7 billion Hong Kong dollars, according to Financial Secretary Donald Tsang.

"We do not agree with many of the NGOs (non-governmental organizations) that poverty is getting worse in Hong Kong," said a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department.

"Those who are in need can come to apply for CSSA. It also has to be said that street sleepers are a very complicated problem. Some are drug addicts and alcoholics. It's not simply a question of offering them help."

Still unclear are the effects of the welfare system on the Chinese traditions of looking after the elderly and sick members of one's family.

Rev. Tse agrees that throwing money at a problem is no solution per se. He said he saw a growing tendency among Hongkongers to wall themselves off from people in need, and even from relatives who needed help.

"There is little care and warmth, both from the government and the community, for people at the bottom," he said.

(AFP)

Ukrainian Port City Sobers Up to Reality of AIDS

ODESSA, Ukraine — An air of shame clings to the desolate, walled-in compound, a former leper colony now housing AIDS patients.

Out of habit, nurses still lock patients behind iron gates, and neighbors steer far clear of its overgrown entrance.

"People in this country think AIDS is the plague," said soft-spoken Nadya Stetskova, a recovering drug addict who was propped up on her hospital bed. "Everyone's getting it, but no one's talking about it."

Until recently, Ukraine and other former Soviet republics had relatively few cases of AIDS or people with the AIDS virus, and they did very little to help those who did. For the most part, cash-strapped Ukraine simply dismissed AIDS as a rare "foreigners" disease.

But with the number of cases rising, the country's first AIDS clinic has opened in the free-living port city of Odessa as part of a slowly growing network of related programs.

Last year alone, the number of people reported infected with the AIDS virus jumped from just over 1,000 to 5,500 in Odessa. The city now accounts for more than one-third of the country's 14,000 people with the virus. Nationwide, 230 people have contracted full- blown AIDS, the government says.

In recent months Odessa has pioneered a needle exchange program, an AIDS awareness campaign for prostitutes and mobile testing clinics, with financing help from the UN commission on AIDS.

Odessa's historic harbors teem with people — and drugs and diseases — from around the world.

"This city has every kind of reputation but a clean one," said Dr. Georgy Pavsky, an Odessa epidemiologist and head of the United Nations AIDS office in Odessa.

Until recently, Ukraine and other former Soviet republics had relatively few cases of AIDS or people with the AIDS virus, and they did very little to help those who did. For the most part, cash-strapped Ukraine simply dismissed AIDS as a rare "foreigners" disease.

Pavsky estimates the official figures on AIDS are only a fraction of the actual number of cases. Ignorance, fear and social stigmas still run too deep to encourage widespread testing, he said.

The biggest increase, in Odessa and across Ukraine, has been among drug users. They made up just 10 percent of AIDS virus cases in Odessa at the start of 1996 and more than 40 percent by the end.

Stetskova and her two roommates at the clinic, Yulya and Valya, were once addicted to shots of "makovaya solomka," a cheap and readily available opium derivative.

Police call it the drug of choice in the countries of the former Soviet Union. It is often sold in individual doses already in a syringe, which is then refilled and resold to the next customer.

The problem, everyone laments, is money. The Ukrainian government is broke. Ukraine's beleaguered hospitals say they cannot afford anesthetics or bandages, much less costly AIDS medication or prevention programs.

"Most addicts don't realize that aids is a threat. They're more afraid of the police," said Stetskova, who was diagnosed as being infected with AIDS virus last fall.

While she spoke, Valya's 9-year-old son ran by, dragging a broken plastic car tied to a length of twine.

"It's not much of a life for him here," said Valya. Her son doesn't have the virus, but she has nowhere else to leave him while she undergoes treatment.

Talking to himself, Vova played among the weeds on the grounds of the compound on the edge of town, home to about 50 people with AIDS or the AIDS virus.

The women praise the clinic, glad to be around people who understand their disease.

"At other hospitals, they hide the AIDS people in a forgotten corridor and everyone looks at you like you have the plague," Stetskova said.

AIDS officials in the capital, Kiev, initially resisted the establishment of the Odessa clinic as a renegade project, but are now encouraging other regions to follow suit. An AIDS clinic has since opened in Mykolayiv.

The problem, everyone laments, is money. The Ukrainian government is broke. Ukraine's beleaguered hospitals say they cannot afford anesthetics or bandages, much less costly AIDS medication or prevention programs.

"AIDS is just one of a thousand headaches for our leaders," said Volodymyr Tarasenko, a member of the government's commission on AIDS. (AP)

Brown Bears Fail to Win Added Protection at CITES

HARARE — The brown bears of Europe and Asia will not enjoy stepped-up international protection after a bid to secure a total ban on trade in brown bear products failed here Tuesday.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meeting in Harare since June 9, rejected a proposal put forward by Finland, Bulgaria and Jordan to "uplist" the species, ursus arctos, from Appendix 2 to Appendix 1 of the convention, which would impose a total ban.

The brown bear will thus remain in Appendix 2, which allows controlled trade.

The CITES secretariat had recommended a nay vote to the proposal, which had been opposed by Russia where most of the bears live. While 58 countries abstained from the vote, 33 countries voted against the proposal and 17 for.

Amendments to the main vote, including a proposal by Romania that Russian bears be excluded from the change, also failed.

The main argument for greater protection is illegal trade, which is difficult to prevent for species listed in Appendix 2. However the cites secretariat said

(Contd. on Pg. 14)

Whither the Dodgers Under Rupert Murdoch?

LOS ANGELES — The idea of Rupert Murdoch owning the Los Angeles Dodgers is bothering not only his media empire arch-rival, Ted Turner, but baseball's purists as well.

Turner, who is not keen on Murdoch owning anything let alone a team that would compete with his Atlanta Braves, recently asked an audience of Los Angeles businessmen to raise their hands if they wanted Murdoch to own the Dodgers. He looked pleased when not a single hand rose into the air.

The reaction among die-hard baseball fans is reasonably similar, but for them it is not personal. They wonder what will happen to the American national game if the savvy Australian-born media mogul goes ahead and buys the Dodgers from the O'Malley clan, which brought the team West, breaking every heart in Brooklyn, 40 years ago.

Although the O'Malleys are still hated in Brooklyn, they are admired in Los Angeles for running the team with a steady hand, often ignoring the financial bottom line to develop players and making baseball their only priority.

Fear of New Media Universe

They fear he will take the team from just playing baseball into a new media marketing universe where Murdoch throws vast sums of money around to buy players for top dollars, further inflating the costs of what was once a game. They also see him firing managers and trading promising younger talent for high-priced has-beens.

Ultimately, 26 of major league baseball's 30 team owners will have the final say in whether to allow Murdoch, who grew up in a country where cricket is king, into their exclusive club. Many have publicly voiced concern about Murdoch buying the Dodgers for a staggering $350 million — twice the previous record price for a baseball team.

"No one has deeper pockets," the *Times* quoted one owner as saying, expressing worry that a Murdoch cash infusion could destroy the league's salary structure. And there is Murdoch's well-documented feud with CNN founder Turner, whose Braves are national league rivals of the Dodgers. Airing Braves' games on nationwide cable TV brought the Turner broadcasting system more exposure and made them what he calls "America team."

During a court battle last year over cable rights in New York, Turner referred to Murdoch in depositions as a "slimy character" and a "very dangerous person" who shamelessly used the power of the media to advance his wealth and influence.

A Media-Athletic Shoe Company Complex?

Whatever he does, Murdoch is sure to increase his wealth and power with the acquisition of a major sports franchise. "He is someone who can make $350 million work," Peter Russ, a Wall Street analyst who specializes in sports and entertainment, told Reuters. "President (Dwight) Eisenhower used to warn of the military-industrial complex but now we have a media-athletic shoe company complex which is the preeminent cultural experience of our era."

In fact, Murdoch's global satellite TV strategy has been inextricably linked with the acquisition of broadcast rights for various sports around the world and, in his native Australia, the creation of a complete sporting competition.

His News Corp.'s Australian arm has set up and funded a separate rugby league competition, which its cable television joint venture Foxtel Broadcasts live. News Corp. owns stakes in five of the ten clubs in the super league and paid $550 million in 1995 for the rights to broadcast Southern Hemisphere Rugby Union for 10 years.

In Britain, Murdoch's BSkyB affiliate owns the rights to broadcast English premier league soccer games.

In the United States, the staggering four-year $1.6 billion package Murdoch's Fox negotiated with the NFL helped give instant credibility to the fledgling network, which now also airs NHL and major league baseball games.

Sports Promotion Is Big Business

"If you own the distribution you must fill it with programs," Russ said. "Advertising and promotion of sports is big business. The Dodgers have probably the best local media market in the country. My guess is a decent Dodgers team will sell more ads to more people than any other in the United States."

Murdoch, analysts say, approaches sports as he does his other interests, from a business perspective.

"I can't see him attending every game and worrying about the Dodgers' personnel roster. He'll have managers do that for him," Harold Vogel, a stock analyst who monitors Murdoch's properties, told the Orange County *Register* newspaper.

"His motives are not to meddle in every detail, he doesn't read every script that goes by," said Vogel, contrasting Murdoch to New York Yankees' owner George Steinbrenner.

When O'Malley announced he was putting the Dodgers up for sale, he said "The time is right to sell. It is the time of corporate ownership. All economic factors figure into this. Family ownership is probably a dying breed."

In an effort to ease the concerns, Murdoch's Fox Group said it was "extremely premature" to speculate on any operational and personnel changes at the Dodgers.

Time, and Murdoch, will tell. (Reuter)



Dressing in Society

Photo by Mojtaba Takin

Tehran Times Service

Ever since man came into this world and formed societies with others of his kind his main preoccupation has been to meet his necessities out of the resources of his environment.

The environment in which he lived was not always friendly. Theories on how clothing came to be invented attribute climatic changes as having led man to create for himself the appropriate cover to meet the harshness of the weather, subjecting him to extremes of warmth or cold, and later of having to protect his body from external forces. Gradually dresses took on a wider purpose: not only were they designed to protect but also to give added beauty and purchased as luxuries. Still later dresses took on an added function — they became items of ostentation.

In short, dresses served to protect the body, then to give it beauty and then as items for flaunting.

As societies progressed and members became materially better-off, dresses as a means of protection for the body gradually complimented man's materialistic cravings. The more financially capable he was the more he spent on clothes that he did not really need. This was expressed in the style and manner of dressing that depicted other motives. Moreover, comparing primitive societies in their way of dressing and the developed ones will show that dressing initially was intended to serve some bodily need. A society's manner of dressing reflects its attitudes and culture. Furthermore, dressing is a dynamic activity, not a static one. As societies progress materially and economically the manner of dressing of its members change. Fashion is a veryprofitable industry these days because of the fact that dressing has drastically changed as far as people's motivation is concerned.

If we look at the subject of dressing through the eyes of sociologists, it is obvious that it is a part of public culture. Each social unit, region or country has a special way of dressing that depicts its natural and ecological conditions. This is best illustrated in countries such as India or Burma which still insists on their national attires notwithstanding the passage of time. From the viewpoint of public culture, especially with increasing intertribal mingling and the introduction of a new concept known as the "world cottage," there are no more national or cultural barriers; social mores as they are shaped by the narrow concept of "tribal" relations will soon be forgotten. Change is becoming the criteria of progress. The more obvious results may be seen in people ignoring the culture of their birth for other cultures. The first sign of a lack of identity is in the way a society evolves in its manner of dressing.

Today Iranian dressing is a mixture of Russian, English, American, French, Indian and Arabic styles.

When people simply take on aspects of other people's lives without knowing why, we can conclude that they are simply imitating. Anything new or strange will always attract people, especially the young, and this applies equally to dressing or any other aspect of a culture. Today in our society we witness young people who imitate the Western style of dressing, many aspects of which run counter to our religious beliefs. Short, tight and transparent skirts, dresses that barely cover the body, uni-sex apparels, brand name two-pieces, or clothes in flattering colors are those preferred by the West, with its idea that the less the body is covered the better. They call it fashion or adapting to changes in the environment. But call it by any name, it is still the same image that is being depicted: sensuality.

According to statistics, there are more companies specializing in the production and distribution of apparels for women than for men and children.



Photo by Seyed Rohneddin Hejazi

Dressing with the times is definitely not akin as suitable dressing, just as simple dressing does not necessarily mean acceptable dressing. Dressing should be aimed at protecting the body from the harshness of the elements — heat or cold — or protecting it from external incursions.

Dressing should create dignity.

Over-expensive dressing has been banned in many societies just as dressing to glorify the self. Dressing depends on the person's taste and his/her taste is influenced by culture which includes his religious beliefs.

As earlier pointed out there are many countries that still insist on their national attires and refuse to go with the times. Such is indicative of the acceptance of a particular culture by the people concerned and dressing is but a manifestation of that acceptance.

"The dress should be a cover for the body, not a second skin."

Still there are so many motives guiding people in their choice of manner of dressing. There are those who believe that "clothes make a man." This is simply indicative of their desire for acceptance; i.e., that the way a person dresses as judged by others determines his/her success in life. Others dress for comfort and others for style.



Photo by Farid Rastegari

According to statistics, there are more companies specializing in the production and distribution of apparels for women than for men and children. Perhaps this is due to the fact that women tend to go for variation in dresses more than men. Companies only want to boost their incomes and so they cater to the varied tastes of women.

In reality the fashion industry is only making women a tool to enrich themselves. Women who have made great names in the fashion field have confessed to living empty lives. With all the money they spent on expensive clothes still life for them was not worth living. Beauty and joy therefore do not necessarily go hand in hand.

Man was created in the "image" of God. Man is the crown of God's creation. Man necessitated clothes only when he sinned against God.

It is important to remember that man was created in the "image" of God. Man is the crown of God's creation. Man necessitated clothes only when he sinned against God. Now he should dress up because he has been alienated from his Creator. He dresses up to glorify God and not to expose his sinful body. The absence of moral and ethical principles to govern society's way of dressing have caused chaos and discord in its consumption patterns. A society that emphasizes materialism and greed will necessarily find itself encouraging ostentatious dressing. A society that ignores God's purpose for creation will not care whether the clothes worn by its members cause others to commit evil.

The manner of dressing of a particular society or people is a good barometer of its level of education, social development and cultural enlightenment. The more attention is paid to values, virtues and the exigencies of living the less attention is paid to appearance. We have seen civilizations deteriorate as people progress materially. A very good example is the West. As it advances technologically and materially, its civilization is going down in juxtaposition. Today Iranian dressing is a mixture of Russian, English, American, French, Indian and Arabic styles. Man dresses first to please others and then follows his taste. This is indicative of his desire for acceptance. A person's manner of dressing is dictated by his social relations and also by his culture and beliefs. Of course one cannot discount geographical, climatic and economic conditions, as well as tradition.

As far as the Western manner of dressing is concerned, the dress is intended as a second skin and not a covering for the body, putting a premium on nihilistic cultures and amoral lifestyles.

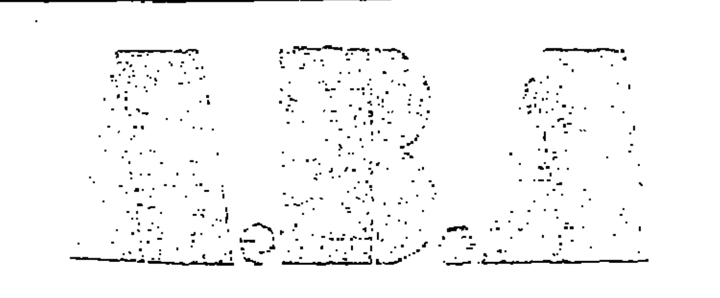
Dressing should be aimed at protecting the body from the harshness of the elements — heat or cold — or protecting it from external incursions. Dressing should create dignity.



Photo by Abbas Kowsari

It is obvious that an assessment of an ideal manner of dressing for society needs fundamental, precise and deep research into the issue of what constitutes a "dignified" life which includes dressing.

The physical function of dressing is to cover and protect the body. The moral function is another thing. It depends on man's concept of life which are rooted in his spiritual beliefs. That is why we say that dressing is an aspect of a person's cultural and religious orientation. Of course there are secondary considerations such as economic conditions, age, sex, financial and social status, but culture and ideology will provide the moral criteria of what is "dignified" dressing.



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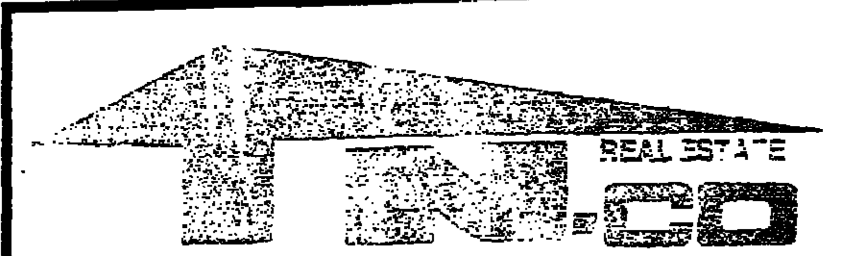
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2. OPENING DATE: 10 A.M. MONDAY JULY 14, 1997

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International Spectrum: A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU. JUNE 19, 1997; KHORDAD 29, 1376; SAFAR 13, 1418

Iran Spectrum: A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, June 10

Anti-Taleban Alliance Denies Taleban Victory Claim

The Taleban militia have gained some ground in fighting north of Kabul but are yet to capture the key highway town of Jabul Siraj, opposition claimed.

Sierra Leone Coup Leaders Said to Want $46 Million



Leaders of a coup in Sierra Leone are demanding $46 million to step down and allow the return of ousted civilian President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, sources close to the coup leaders said.

S. Korean Red Cross Food Teams Head for N. Korea Border

Three South Korean Red Cross teams set off from Beijing the second leg of a mission to deliver 11,200 tons of corn to North Korea's starving people.

Wednesday, June 11

Lissouba Orders Congo Army to Cease-Fire



President Pascal Lissouba ordered his army to start a unilateral cease-fire on the seventh day of clashes in the capital of Congo with the militia supporting former Marxist military leader Denis Sassou Nguesso.

Sri Lanka Death Toll Exceeds 342, Tigers Maul Elite Troops

The death toll in a fierce battle between the army with Tamil Tiger rebels in northern Sri Lanka rose to 342 with the discovery of further dead soldiers, officials here said.

Egypt, Turkey Disagree on Iraq, Israel

Egypt and Turkey disagreed openly on northern Iraq and Turkish-Israeli military cooperation during a visit to Egypt by Turkey's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Gul.

Anti-Taleban Alliance Takes Last Taleban Town in North

Pul-i-Khumri, the last major Taleban-held town in northeastern Afghanistan, fell to opposition forces, witnesses said.

Thursday, June 12

At Least Five Killed in Colombian Prison Riots

At least five inmates were killed and nearly 30 others were injured in prison riots in Bogota and Colombia's central Tolima Province, authorities said.

Ciller Hits Out at Turkish Army

The leader of the Turkish conservative True Path Party and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller called on military to 'mind its own business' and stop interfering in politics, acting as a political party.

Friday, June 13

More Bloodshed Feared in Sri Lanka, Month's Toll Exceeds 1,350

Sri Lanka's largest military offensive against Tamil Tiger guerrillas entered its second month with both sides placing their death toll at 1,350 killed and promising more bloodshed.

Turkish Tanks Begin Returning From Iraq

Nearly 30 Turkish tanks taking part in a month-old army incursion into northern Iraq to crush separatist Kurds returned to Turkey witnesses said.

Brazzaville Calmer on Day Nine of Bloody Standoff



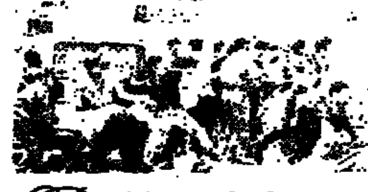
France said it expected to evacuate all French nationals from Congo's embattled capital, Brazzaville, within two days and be in a position to pull out its armed forces.

Saturday, June 14

McVeigh Doesn't Flinch or Even Blink as Jury Condemns Him to Die

Timothy McVeigh was condemned to death for the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil, accepting the ultimate punishment without so much as a blink.

Protestors Throw Petrol Bombs at Jewish Settlement



Palestinian youths threw petrol bombs at a Jewish settlement and clashed with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank city of Al-Khalil.

Turkey Summit to Set Up D-8 Group of Developing Nations

Foreign ministers and senior officials from eight Islamic nations met in Istanbul to finalize a statement announcing the creation of an economic cooperation body similar to the G-7, the group of major economic powers.

Sunday, June 15

Croatia's Tudjman Promises Democracy After Voting

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman promised a rich and democratic future for his country after casting his ballot in a presidential election which the opposition has already branded undemocratic.

Efforts to Seal Truce Increase as French Pullout Nears

With France expected to withdraw its soldiers from Brazzaville mediators were trying to arrange a summit between the leaders of warring factions to avoid new battles for the airport French soldiers have controlled.

Palestinians, Israelis Fight as Negotiators Remain Silent



Stone-throwing Palestinian youths clashed with Israeli soldiers for the second day running as tensions continued to mount due to the stalemate in the peace process.

Monday, June 16

Tudjman Wins Third Term

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has been reelected to another five-year term in which he will have to consolidate peace in the region and promote the economy to heal the after-effects of the war.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, June 10

Rafsanjani Commissions Key Projects in Hormuzgan

Several key development projects in this southern province including the Persian Gulf Shipyard and Al-Mahdi Aluminum Complex were commissioned by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday night and Tuesday morning.

ECO 2nd Railway Meeting Starts Work



The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) second meeting of the senior railway officials opened.

Wednesday, June 11

Asia, Economic Pole of Next Century

In a meeting between the speaker of Thai Parliament Wan Muhammad Noor Matha, and President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the president said that the growing cooperation among Asian developing states, proper conditions in the region and the rich resources and abundant raw materials will turn Asia into the largest economic pole in next century.

Thursday, June 12

President Receives Turkmen, Armenian FMs



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed regret over continuation of fighting and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Friday, June 13

Presidental Elections Proved of American Intentions

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here that the American had done everything to discredit the presidential elections in Iran, but the massive number of ballots at a nationally peaceful environment had proved the opposite of their intentions.

Saturday, June 14

Iran Slams U.S. Vote on Bait-ul-Moqaddas

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani blasted on Saturday a U.S. House of Representatives vote recognizing Holy Qods as capital of the Zionist regime, saying it was a sign of Washington's disregard for the world of Islam.

Sunday, June 15

Rafsanjani Voices Deep Concern Over Violation of Holy Qods

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran at the summit of the eight Islamic developing states in Istanbul expressed deep concern over adoption of a resolution by the United States Congress on transfer of American Embassy from Tel-Aviv to the Holy Qods and recognizing Al-Qods al-Sharif as the capital of the Zionist occupying regime.

Monday, June 16

Iran, Pakistan Call For Cessation of Hostilities in Afghanistan



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and the visiting Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif, in a meeting called for an immediate halt to fratricide in Afghanistan through peaceful means.

Khatami Thanks Pope John Paul II

President-elect Mohammad Khatami said in his message to the leader of the world Catholics Pope John Paul II that cooperation among governments would serve to foster justice, peace and freedom around the world.

Leader Advises IPO Officials to Better Know Their Audience

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei gave guidelines to officials of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) on how to establish more effective relationship with their audience.

NIAVARAN PARK:

[illegible] Resort Turned [illegible] Place for Recreation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The prominent feature of Niavaran Park is its old trees, planted many decades ago



to provide people with their pleasant shade today. Plane trees, some having trunks almost one meter in diameter, with thick branches and plenteous foliage, form long lines in the park. There are also fruit trees like walnut and mulberry trees in the park, dating from the remote past when there used to be a village with orchards at the site of the park. Elm trees, ash trees, and cypress trees abound in the park, adding to the natural beauty of the surroundings.

The park caretaker, Daneshvar, speaking with the *Tehran Times* reporter on the history of the park, said that the park, as it is now, was opened to the public in 1969. "The water needed for the park's flora is obtained from a subterranean canal. There are over 10,000 trees in the park, which has an area of 62,000 square meters," he added.



Niavaran Park is located in the north of Tehran, in a region with a rather refreshing mountainous climate. In the past, people would camp there, enjoying the place as a summer resort.

Nearly one-third of the area is covered with lawn and there are flowers with diversified colors here and there. Yellow flowers match perfectly with the green background and at some spots, there are flowers with clashing colors.

The park's promenades are paved with stone slabs. The slabs of marble form beautiful octagons. There is also a water channel with its inner surface covered with slate tiles carrying water along the park.

The flights of stairs in the park compensate for the natural ascents and descents. In the center of the park, there are rectangular fish ponds and duck ponds. Fish of various colors abound in the ponds, attracting the attention of the visitors, especially the kids.

Daneshvar added that by the end of the current year, the park will be provided with new benches, and the paving of some promenades will also be renovated.

Located at a convenient point in the park, the restaurant and snack bar with its nicely designed pyramidal ceiling looks nice. There is also a skating-rink open to the public.

According to Daneshvar, there is a plan to build a roofed swimming-pool at the site of an empty swimming-pool, located to the east of the park. It will be open to ladies and gentlemen on the alternate days.



There is a racecourse behind the park's amphitheater, where some 13 thoroughbred Iranian racehorses are kept. The horse-races in the park are organized by a private club, which also offers training courses to children.

Niavaran Park is located at the northern end of Pasdaran Street. Through its natural beauty and artistic splendor, it inspires the visitors with ecstasy and rapture.

JUMBO

ACROSS

4. Embrace (5)
10. Childish (7)
12. Kind of poem (7)
14. Astronomy instrument (9)
15. Most primitive (7)
18. Useful tool (7)
21. Striped jungle cat (7)
24. Different (5)
27. Rule-breaker (5)
28. King with the golden touch (5)
31. Suit-maker (6)
33. She danced for John's head (6)
34. Choice decided upon (9)
38. Gross, vulgar (7)
41. His head's in the clouds (7)
44. Collapse, breakdown (7)
47. Immunising fluid (5)
50. Lustrous fur (5)
51. Fundamental (5)
54. Quake (6)
56. Postal package (6)
57. Reading matter (4)
58. Complain (4)
59. Shove forward (6)
60. One taking pot-shots (6)
61. Bridge-crossing levy (4)
63. Abominable snowman (4)
64. Attacker (6)
67. Jewellery for the leg (6)
70. Go in for (5)
71. Tall support (5)
74. Cooked meat juice (5)
75. Bright pupil (7)
77. Car engine part (7)
80. Approach for ad[illegible] (7)
84. [illegible]
87. [illegible]
90. Prolong (6)
93. Alter and improve (5)
94. Team of doctors (5)
97. Nine's square root (5)
98. Aircraft part (7)
100. Familiar with (7)
103. Strain of being twisted (7)
107. Plant called *Aquilegia* (9)
108. Wind-storm (7)
109. A complex character? (7)
110. Small hand-saw (5)

DOWN

1. Heroic poem (4)
2. Lima's its capital (4)
3. Location (4)
4. Glasgow soccer club (6)
5. Confidently tell (6)
6. Marcel ——— (Fr. novelist) (6)
7. Mid-leg joint (4)
8. Officers' dining-hall (4)
9. Uninteresting (4)
11. In case (not) (4)
13. Makes a choice (4)
16. Duty schedule (4)
17. Fight over honour (4)
19. Finger part (4)
20. Mosque official (4)
22. Clarified butter (4)
23. The orient (4)
24. Holy Roman Empire's founder (4)
25. Snake's sound (4)
26. Shade of pink (4)
28. Lion's hair (4)
29. Final judgement (4)
30. Scorch, singe (4)
32. Tear, rip (4)
33. Tender (4)
35. Wine sediment (4)
36. Crustacean (4)
37. [illegible] (4)
39. [illegible]
40. [illegible]
42. [illegible]
43. Canadian/US lake (4)
45. Hinder part (4)
46. Huge shellfish (4)
47. Body height (7)
48. Military trainee (7)
49. Mafia member (7)
51. Prohibiting (7)
52. The shoulder-blade (7)
53. Lucidness (7)
55. Helicopter engine (5)
56. Italian dough (5)
62. Thin wooden strip (4)
63. Shout loudly (4)
65. ——— *Karenina* (Tolstoy) (4)
66. Cathedral dignitary (4)
68. Malay knife (4)
69. Wickedness (4)
71. Flat-bottomed boat (4)
72. US state (4)
73. Diplomacy (4)
75. Automatic gun (4)
76. Actor's part (4)
77. Fashion (4)
78. Sports fixture (4)
79. ——— Blyton (author) (4)
81. After that (4)
82. Employer (4)
83. Ocean motion (4)
85. Mined fuel (4)
86. Prophet (4)
88. Muscat's its capital (4)
89. Once again (4)
91. In this way (4)
92. Cruel Roman emperor (4)
94. Sow's young (6)
95. Paul ——— (film star) (6)
96. Cosmetic cream (6)
98. Shortly, soon (4)
99. Not any (4)
100. Rifle's recoil (4)
101. On a single occasion (4)
102. Religious picture (4)
104. Carry out again (4)
105. Body of Zulu warriors (4)
106. [illegible]



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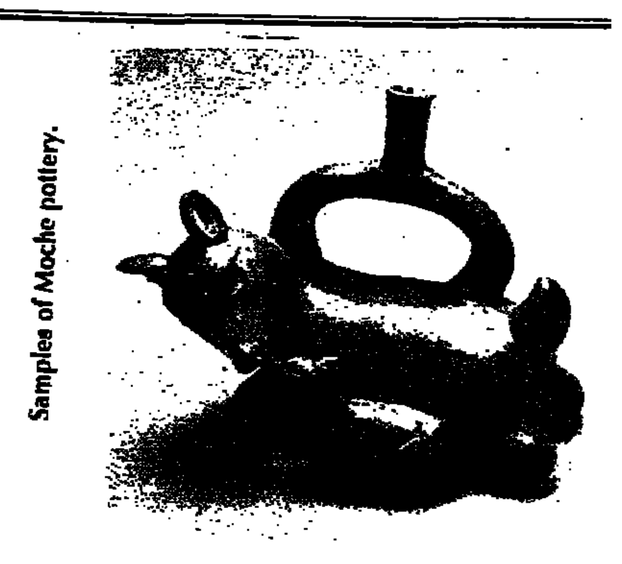
Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: *Peru*

THE MOCHE OF ANCIENT PERU

Cutting across the coastal desert of northern Peru, rivers flow from the Andean Cordillera to the Pacific Ocean. From about A.D. 100 to 800 the Moche made their home in the valley oases that these rivers created, irrigating their crops with previous river water.

Samples of Moche pottery.

Who were the Moche, and what brought about their amazing flourescence of art and technology? Like pieces of a puzzzle, answers are slowly being assembled by researchers and in recent years the outlines of the magnificent Moche civilization have begun to emerge.

Compared with the empires of their successors, the Chimu and the powerful Inca, the realm of the Moche was tiny. The core area encompassed less than 250 miles of coast from the valleys of Lambayeque to Nepena. Along that seemingly inhospitable coast their settlements followed valleys no more than 50 miles inland, until floodplains narrowed into the canyons of the Andes.

The most visible remains of the Moche today are their large truncated pyramids, also called *huacas*, that rise dramatically out of agricultural fields or loom along the barren slopes above the floodplains. Though some of the smaller pyramids and burial platforms are destroyed each year to create land for farms and growing towns, hundreds still stand. The pyramids at Pampa Grande in the Lambayeque Valley were once surrounded by a sprawling urban center that apparently supported 10,000 people. Near present-day Trujillo the Moche erected their most massive structure, Huaca del Sol—the Pyramid of the Sun. Towering 135 feet above the coastal plain, it sprawls over 12.5 acres—an area almost as large as that covered by the Great Pyramid at Giza in Egypt.

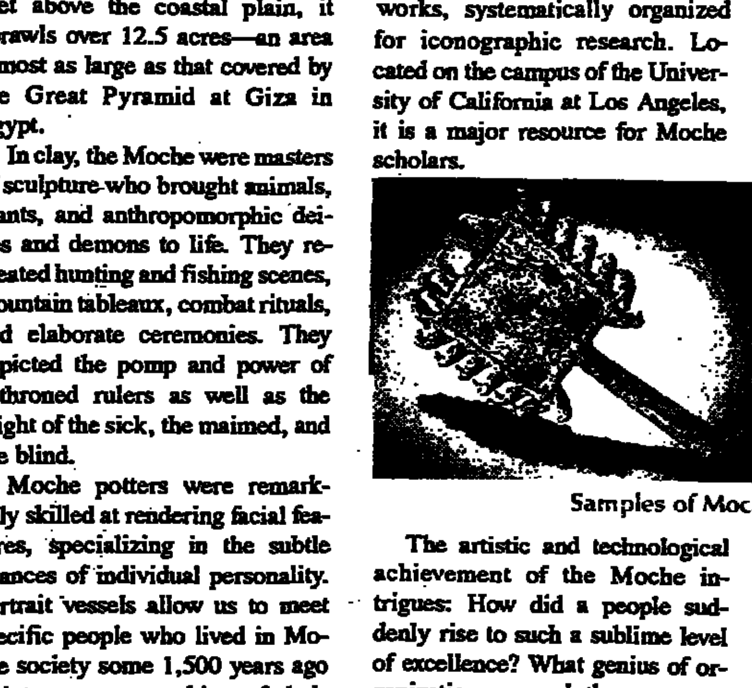
In clay, the Moche were masters of sculpture who brought animals, plants, and anthropomorphic deities and demons to life. They recreated hunting and fishing scenes, mountain tableaux, combat rituals, and elaborate ceremonies. They depicted the pomp and power of enthroned rulers as well as the plight of the sick, the maimed, and the blind.

Moche potters were remarkably skilled at rendering facial features, specializing in the subtle nuances of individual personality. Portrait vessels allow us to meet specific people who lived in Moche society some 1,500 years ago and to sense something of their personal qualities.

Moche artists also expressed themselves in carved and inlaid bone and wood, carved stone, and colorful murals painted on the walls of religious structures.

From the potter to the muralist the combined output of Moche artists comprises thousands of objects that offer tantalizing views of Moche life.

Now, after two decades, the Moche archive encompasses more than 125,000 photographs of artworks, systematically organized for iconographic research. Located on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles, it is a major resource for Moche scholars.




Samples of Moche metallurgy.

The artistic and technological achievement of the Moche intrigues: How did a people suddenly rise to such a sublime level of excellence? What genius of organization spurred the construction of the Pyramid of the Sun or the labyrinthine network of irrigation canals? What triumph of intuition and experiment produced electroplating of precious metals? Whence the artistic spirit that suffused the hands of potters to capture human personalities? And whence the delicacy of touch that crafted the gold and silver ornaments of status?

Clearly there must have been highly skilled specialists who underwent an extensive apprenticeship in order to master their trades. But what was it about Moche society that nurtured the extraordinary flourishing of art and technology?

Archaeological research has shown that the valleys occupied by the Moche had a high density of people, supported by crops watered by their ingenious canal system. In the Jequetepeque Valley, Herbert Eling of the University of Texas at Austin recently concluded that the Moche cultivated about 100,000 acres—a figure surpassed by modern Peruvian farmers only in the past 20 years.

The hierarchy of power and authority necessary for such a system also would have been required for the construction and maintenance of the massive mud-brick pyramids. The Pyramid of the Sun contains more than 140 million mud bricks, estimated to weigh more than four million tons.

When the Spanish hydraulic looting operation washed away a sizable portion of this structure, it revealed a cross section showing a complex construction sequence. Analyzed, the cross-section reveals an original pyramid that was enlarged on many occasions over a period of centuries.

Moche society was organized in many ways like the Inca Empire. To accomplish monumental construction tasks, each community contributed what amounted to a labor levy. Work parties from a community were assigned to build a designated section of a project. The workers made their own bricks and transported them to the site. This activity implies a highly organized population, with a well-established hierarchy of power and authority.

Like today's mud-brick shelters, the buildings of the Moche would have eroded under natural cataclysms that periodically devastate coastal Peru. Calamitous earthquakes uplift and buckle the land; a sporadic weather disruption known as El Nino unleashes torrential rains around Christmas; decade-long drought shrivel the harvests.

With the sunset of the Moche realm came the end of a golden era. Later civilizations in the area produced impressive ceramics and matallurgy, but they never again achieved the artistic genius and technological virtuosity of the Moche. (Courtesy of *National Geographic*, June 1990.)



The sacred pyramid at Pampa Grande, the largest Moche complex.

Anecdote

Do You Call That a Hat?

"Do you call that a hat?" I said to my wife.

"You needn't be so rude about it," my wife answered as she looked at herself in the mirror. I sat down on one of those modern chairs with holes in it and waited. We had been in the hat shop for half an hour and my wife was still in front of the mirror.

"We mousn't buy things we don't need," I remarked suddenly. I regretted saying it almost at once.

"You needn't have said that," my wife answered. "I need not remind you of that terrible tie you bought yesterday."

"I find it beautiful," I said. "A man can never have too many ties."

"And a woman can't have too many hats," she answered.

Ten minutes later we walked out of the shop together. My wife was wearing a hat that looked like a lighthouse!

Answers to last week's QUOTE QUIZ:
1(g), 2(d), 3(h), 4(a), 5(c), 6(f), 7(b), 8(j), 9[illegible], 10[illegible].

Punch Line

The Right to Privacy

HELSINKI — Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees to every person the right to privacy.

As the trial in a case that has stunned Finland heads to a conclusion, the evidence that has the most dramatic impact is the photograph of the suspect that was splashed over the press, alongside his name, in January.

Steven Thomas, a black American with HIV, has figured prominently in the Finnish media along with police reports that even though he knew he was infected, he may have had unprotected sex with more than 100 Finnish women.

Debate and rage have ebbed and flowed since news of the infected black foreigner first broke. Clashing opinions about the behavior and attitudes of all involved are easy to find.

As regular court hearings head towards a verdict, those involved say the real questions are not "Why did he do it?" or "Why did the women do it?" or even "Why did they spread his picture across the country?"

The questions that will come back are how could one actually prevent such crimes, and most importantly, whether it can ever be right, even if it is fully legal, to expose a suspect so publicly.

As one of the officials involved put it: "In this case now, everyone is a victim."

Helsinki is no New York.

Several factors weighed in the chain of responses once police started to investigate Thomas, who is now in custody.

Helsinki, the Finnish capital, has plenty of nightclubs and a thriving gay scene but among heterosexuals its experience of AIDS is a far cry from cities like New York or London.

Finland has a very low rate of HIV infection—only about 600 of the 5.1 million population. Relative to larger countries, it also has a tiny black population.

Unlike New York or London, Helsinki has no large black community to lobby for its own.

Finnish law allows the authorities to expose private details if they consider it justified. According to prosecution lawyer Fredman, some simply cannot be kept secret.

Chief inspector Terho Maki said he decided to release first Thomas' name, then his skin color, and finally his picture, weighing the right to privacy against the need to find all the victims—to solve the case and prevent more disease.

"Based on his lifestyle, his behavior, what he did and how he did it repeatedly, we know there must be over 100 potential victims," he said in January.

In that context, the course of events may have been inevitable. But some think the publicity went too far.

"The problem in publishing the picture in Finland is that it might label a whole group of foreigners or black people as suspects," Culture Minister Claes Andersson said through a spokesman.

Thomas' lawyer, Aarno Arvela, defending him against a charge of attempted manslaughter, is not denying every alleged act, but arguing for a lesser charge. He cannot divulge details, but Finnish statutes contain several possible verdicts.

More important for him is that he thinks the police could have achieved their objectives by simply identifying the carrier as a "black American."

In the complex Finnish legal system, Thomas's motivation is not an issue, even for prosecution lawyer Fredman. He believes an adequate sentence could be given without even asking if Thomas's actions were in some way premeditated.

But Arvela argues that the law demanding that people who carry the virus inform their partners is unrealistic. "After a day or two, you suddenly notice you don't have a single friend," he said. "People just disappear."

According to Arvela, the counselling thomas received did not go much beyond a 20-page bundle of photocopied sheets explaining the mechanics of transmission. The AIDS council offers more support than this, but does not handle every case.

"I have been thinking about our own ability to give professional support to people who speak a foreign language," Lindblom said. "i don't think we can offer much right now."

One irony in the affair is that, to protect the women victims, the case has been declared secret. The public prosecutor will not say how many women are involved, although they are represented by a total of six lawyers.

This, coming after the blaze of publicity in the case's early days, has frustrated many involved. Arvela in particular says he is unable fully to challenge various reports.

"You can't reach the lies," he said. "The shame stays and the defending points are blocked from discussion."

For Fredman, the main aim is for Thomas to get as long a sentence as possible, perhaps 15 years. But in another twist, he is perhaps in the best position to address the question of the right to privacy which Arvela seeks to underline.

Fredman acted in a separate legal challenge—in the European court of human rights—involving the wife of an HIV-positive black man charged with multiple rape, after a Finnish court made her identity and medical records available to the press.

In a complex judgment, the European court ruled that the Finnish state had violated her right to privacy, awarding her substantial damages and costs.

"We have a problem here in Finland," Fredman said. "We have a system of publicity."

Arvela fully expects that in the future the question of the civil right to privacy will become a [illegible] issue. "But it will take time," he said. "[illegible] I can't do anything while the case is open."

Reuters

1994 - U.S. troops take Saipan Island in Pacific from Japanese during World War II.

1953 - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are executed in United States after conviction as Soviet atomic spies.

1970 - Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 9 lands in Kazakhstan, establishing record for longest manned space flight at 17 days, 16 hours, 59 minutes.

1975 - U.S. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim opens first major world conference on status of women, in Mexico City.

1987 - Explosion in Barcelona department store garage kills 12 people and injures 31, and Basque separatists claim responsibility.

1988 - Bomb planted by Sikh extremists explodes in middle of crowd outside television shop in Kurukshetra, India, killing 15 people and injuring 25 others.

1989 - Chinese Premier Li Peng defends army's attack on pro-democracy demonstrators.

1990 - Trial of Mayor Marion Barry on drug and perjury charges opens in Washington, D.C.

1991 - Hundreds of South Korean students clash with riot police on the eve of the second round of that country's first local elections in 30 years.

1992 - Ireland gives the first "yes" vote to the treaty on European unity.

A Tale From Gulistan of Sadi

On the Advantages of Silence

I said to a friend I had chosen rather to be silent than to speak, because on most occasions good and bad words are scattered concurrently, but enemies perceive only the latter. He replied: "That enemy would better not to catch any good."

The brother of enmity passes no near a good man except to consider him as a most wicked liar. Art is greatest fault to the eyes of enmity; Sa'di is a case, but to the eye of enemies a thorn. The world-illuminating sun and fountain of light looks ugly to the eye of a mole.



Photo by Abbas Kawsari

Complete each of the following book titles by ticking the correct box below.

All you ever wanted to know about 1.......

LIFE IN THE CLOUDS
the diaries of 2....... RAF pilot

A Communicative Grammar of 3.......

'A House is not always a Home'
my reasons for saying goodbye to 4.......

'I should have known better'
confessions of 5 ...... elephant hunter

On the banks

In Search of
7.......
Heir to the Throne

IF ONLY THEY'D GIVEN ME 9... X-RAY
the sad story of
N. Bones

1 ☐ computers ☐ the computers
2 ☐ a ☐ an
3 ☐ English ☐ the English
4 ☐ Downing Street ☐ the Downing Street
5 ☐ a ☐ an

6 ☐ the Suez Canal ☐ Suez Canal
7 ☐ a ☐ an
8 ☐ USA ☐ the USA
9 ☐ a ☐ an

ANSWER KEY

1 computers 2 an 3 English ...
7 an 8 the USA 9 an

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1685 - Russia's Tsar Theodore II is assassinated in Palace Revolution.

1625 - France and United Provinces sign non-aggression treaty.

1792 - France mobs invade the Tuileries.

1867 - U.S. President Andrew Jackson proclaims treaty for purchase of Alaska from Russia.

1891 - Britain and Netherlands define their boundaries in Borneo.

1900 - Assassination of German ambassador to Peking launches siege of foreign legations China.

1933 - Army stages coup in Siam (Thailand)

1961 - Kuwait as admitted to Arab League, but admission to United Nations is blocked by Soviet Union.

1973 - Former argentina Dictator Juan Peron return to his country after more than 10 year of exile.

1987 - Austria's President Kurt Waldheim says he hopes to play peacemaking role in rab Israel conflict, despite Jewish criticism of his Nazi past.





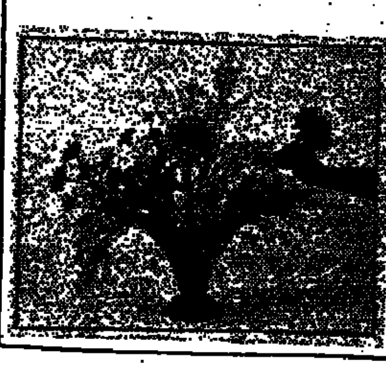
PINK ON PARADE



The frosty pink glass of this art deco vase is reflected in the flowers of the display. Squash up a piece of wire mesh and squeeze into the bottom of the vase: the mesh will be masked by the frosted glass.



Add long stems of pink broom to form the curving outline. Then fill in the outline with pink miniature roses.



Pink gerbera form the focal point. Place one above the other to the front of the arrangement, with three more looking out from the sides. Finally, fill-in the gaps with pinks, recessing some of the flowers as shown to create depth in the arrangement.

